



Polio Booster Vaccination Programme

Following the detection of polio virus in sewage samples taken from North and East London, the NHS is offering all 1-9 year olds in London a polio booster vaccination.

Polio is an infection caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system – it can cause permanent paralysis of muscles.

Find more information about polio, its symptoms, and vaccinations by visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/polio/>

You can read the information leaflet by visiting https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1097153/UKHSA_12440_polio_leaflet_for_parents_and_carers.pdf

Getting Vaccinated

The polio vaccine is safe and effective. The best way to prevent polio is to make sure parents/carers and children are up to date with their vaccinations. The vaccine is given as part of a combined jab to babies, toddlers, and teenagers as part of the NHS routine childhood vaccination schedule.

It is given when the child is:

- 8, 12 and 16 weeks old as part of the 6-in-1 vaccine
- 3 years, 4 months old as part of the 4-in-1 (DTaP/IPV) pre-school booster
- 14 years old as part of the 3-in-1 (Td/IPV) teenage booster

You will need to have all these vaccinations to be fully vaccinated against polio.

The NHS in London has contacted parents to come forward for a booster or catch-up polio dose - parents should take up the offer as soon as possible.

Where can you get vaccinated?

Children aged between 1 and 4

Parents with children aged between 1 and 4 are being offered an appointment at their GP practice.

Children aged between 5 and 9

Parents with children aged between 5 and 9 years old can use the following link to book a vaccination appointment for your child <https://bit.ly/poliovax>. It is important to come forward for the Polio booster as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Polio Booster you can speak to a someone by calling 0203 8800338 or emailing homecare.covidvaccine@swlondon.nhs.uk

Frequently asked questions about the polio vaccination programme for children can be found by visiting <https://www.southwestlondon.icb.nhs.uk/find-nhs-services/vaccinations/polio/polio-vaccination-faqs/>

Best wishes

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