



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 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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