



School medical service

Vaccinations during the 1st school year by the school medical service or school doctor Informations for the parents and legal guardians

Dear parents and legal guardians

The canton of Nidwalden offers you the opportunity to have the basic vaccinations strongly recommended by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), carried out free of charge in the first school year by the school doctor in your municipality.

In the seventh year of life booster vaccinations for *Polio* (IPV), *Diphtheria* and *Tetanus* (Di, Te) as well as *whooping cough* (Pa) are recommended. If your child has not yet received two vaccinations against measles, mumps and rubella, it is strongly recommended to catch up the vaccination. Further information can be found on the back page of this leaflet.

The vaccinations are *voluntary*. If you would like to make use of the offer of the school medical service, we ask you for your written consent below. Please tick the vaccinations you wish to be carried out. You are also free to have them carried out at your family doctor's office at your own expense.



Registration for vaccination

Please bring your child's vaccination card!

- ☐ I wish for **all** recommended and necessary vaccinations (measles, mumps, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio, chickenpox).
- ☐ I only want **some** of the suggested vaccinations:
- ☐ Measles, mumps and rubella (combined vaccine)
 - ☐ Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio (combined vaccine)
 - ☐ Chickenpox
- ☐ Already vaccinated ☐ I do not wish for vaccinations

Name and surname: _____

Date of birth: _____

School / Place: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Signature from legal
guardian: _____

please turn page

Basic information on vaccinations

Vaccination is the simplest and best form of protection against certain infectious diseases. Vaccination is particularly essential for diseases for which there is no effective cure for or which can cause serious and permanent damage.

By administering a vaccine, which consists of either parts of killed pathogens or weakened living pathogens, the body's immune system is induced to produce defence substances against the invader. As the immune system has a memory, similar to the brain, it can now recognise the same pathogen immediately on subsequent contact and make it harmless before a disease even breaks out. In the case of certain diseases, the immune system's memory weakens over time so that it has to be refreshed with a booster vaccination.

- **Diphtheria (Di):** Severe infection of the nose, throat and larynx caused by bacteria, which can be fatal if left untreated. Eradicated in Switzerland over 30 years ago through regular vaccination. However, it is active again in Eastern Europe due to neglect of immunisation.
- **Tetanus (Te):** Life-threatening poisoning caused by bacteria after contaminated injuries, which is difficult to treat even with the most modern medical measures.
- **Pertussis, whooping cough (Pa):** Highly contagious bacterial infection of the respiratory tract, which leads to a cough that is difficult to control and often lasts for weeks. Life-threatening in infants.
- **Polio (IPV):** Viral disease of the central nervous system that leads to permanent paralysis and often death. (In Switzerland 850 cases per year until vaccination was introduced around 1960).

The four vaccinations are combined in the **DiTePa-IPV vaccine**. The vaccination causes at most a slight reddening/swelling at the vaccination site and occasionally a slightly elevated temperature.

- **Measles:** Viral disease mainly affecting the respiratory organs with intense rash. Middle ear and lung inflammation as a complication. In one in a thousand cases, brain inflammation with permanent, occasionally fatal consequences.
- **Mumps:** Viral disease of the parotid glands. Causes meningitis and very rarely also dangerous brain inflammation (encephalitis). Can lead to the dreaded testicular inflammation with permanent infertility in men.
- **Rubella:** Harmless viral infection with rash, but causes malformations of the unborn child if contracted during pregnancy. Vaccination in childhood is recommended to prevent transmission to pregnant women.

The combined vaccine **MMR** (measles, mumps, rubella) very rarely leads to side effects. A rash accompanied by a slight temperature may occur after 8-10 days. In recent years, it has unfortunately been shown that a single MMR vaccination does not provide lifelong immunity, so a second vaccination is recommended.

- **Chickenpox (Varicella):** The viral disease is characterised by fever, feeling unwell and an itchy rash. Possible complications include bacterial skin infections, pneumonia, meningitis and inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) as well as other neurological complications. There is also the risk of contracting shingles.

As a general rule, vaccinations should not be carried out in the case of acute, febrile illnesses. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Dr. med. Peter Gürber, MPH, cantonal doctor