

Incomplete and unscheduled immunisations

Q. A child has come from overseas/ was not brought for vaccines when younger, what vaccinations should I give now?

A. The aim is to devise a schedule that provides the necessary protection, and brings the child in line with the UK routine schedule as quickly as possible with the minimum number of visits. If there is no reliable history of vaccination, the PHE flow chart should be followed.

Children coming from developing countries will probably have received a measles-containing vaccine in their country of origin but may not have received mumps or rubella vaccines.

The [PHE incomplete/unscheduled immunisations flow chart](#) October 2019 provides the details of how to achieve this, depending on the age of the child.

Q. Do I need to repeat vaccine doses given previously?

A. If there is clear evidence that a vaccine dose has been given, there is no need to repeat that dose

Q. Do I need to restart a course if doses were delayed/not given?

A. No, generally there is no need to restart a course, just start from the point the previous course had been interrupted. There are a small number of exceptions to this, notably oral typhoid and cholera vaccines.

Q. Where do I find the routine immunisation schedules for other countries?

A. Routine schedules for most countries can be found on the [WHO](#) website

(To identify the routine vaccines in a specific **country** select it from the Drop down list, **select all vaccines** and press **ok**). However, just because a vaccine is listed on the schedule, it cannot be assumed that this was the schedule in force at the time an individual was vaccinated, nor that any individual received any particular vaccine without clear documentation of vaccination.

Q. Where do I find the tuberculosis incidence by country?

A. These can be found on the PHE website [TB incidence by country](#)

- check which countries have a high incidence of tuberculosis (TB)
- can help decide whether to give a BCG vaccination to children who have arrived in the UK from those countries

General Contra-indications

Q. Are there any contraindications which apply to all vaccines?

A. There are only two absolute contraindications that apply to all vaccines

- Confirmed anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of a vaccine containing the same antigens
- Confirmed anaphylactic reaction to another component of the vaccine.

There may be further contraindications for specific groups so the relevant Green Book Chapter/PGD should always be checked.

Q. What are the additional contraindications that apply to live vaccines?

A. Live vaccines may be contraindicated in those who are:

- Immunosuppressed
- Pregnant