

1 Why Vaccinations Matter

- Vaccinations are the safest way to protect children from serious diseases.
- They are thoroughly tested and continuously monitored for safety.
- Vaccines also help protect vulnerable members of the community.
- Most children and young people with SEND can safely receive vaccinations.

2 Extra Support is Available

- Quiet or low-sensory spaces.
- Longer appointment times.
- Appointments at quieter times.
- A parent or trusted adult present.
- Accessible communication and extra processing time.
- Comfort items, favourite toys or familiar objects.

3 Helping Your Child Feel Prepared

- Talking about what will happen beforehand.
- Using social stories or role play.
- Bringing favourite toys, books, music or tablets.
- Practising relaxation or breathing techniques.
- Sharing any worries with the immunisation team in advance.

Vaccinations for Children and Young People with SEND

4 What are the side effects?

Common side effects are usually mild and short-lived, such as:

- A sore arm
- Mild fever
- Headache

Serious side effects are very rare.

5 Consent

- Parents and carers provide consent for children under 16.
- Older young people may be able to consent themselves if they fully understand the benefits and risks.

6 If Your Child Misses a Vaccination

Most vaccinations can be:

- Rearranged through catch-up clinics.
- Booked through your GP practice.
- Discussed with the School Aged Immunisation Team.



<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/>

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Adapted from NHS and Gov.uk guidance

