

Translation from Finnish
Legally binding only in Finnish and Swedish
Ministry of Social Affairs and Health

Decree of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health on vaccinations
(149/2017)

By decision of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health pursuant to section 54 of the Communicable Diseases Act (1227/2016), the following is enacted:

Section 1

National vaccination programme vaccines and vaccinations

The vaccines used in the national vaccination programme and the vaccinations administered to protect various groups of population from communicable diseases are listed in the Annex.

Section 2

Targeted vaccinations

An annual influenza vaccination shall be administered before the start of the epidemic season to a person whose health is substantially jeopardised by influenza or who will significantly benefit from an influenza vaccination. An influenza vaccination shall also be administered to social welfare and health services staff and to medicinal care staff involved in the immediate treatment or care of patients or clients. The National Institute for Health and Welfare shall specify the annually applicable vaccines and grounds for vaccination.

A varicella vaccination shall be administered to the staff and internship students referred to in section 48 of the Communicable Diseases Act working in the client or patient facilities of social welfare and health service units, with a pertussis vaccination administered to staff attending suckling infants.

A pneumococcal vaccine shall be administered to a person suffering from an illness that has increased the risk of contracting a serious pneumococcal disease. The National Institute for Health and Welfare shall specify the applicable vaccines and grounds for vaccination.

A BCG vaccination shall be administered to a person with an increased risk of contracting a tuberculosis infection. Hepatitis vaccinations shall be administered to persons with an increased risk of contracting a hepatitis A or B infection due to their living conditions. A hepatitis B vaccination shall be administered to persons with an increased risk of contracting a hepatitis B infection due to their educational studies. The National Institute for Health and Welfare shall specify the applicable vaccines and grounds for vaccination.

The vaccines are listed in the Annex.

Section 3

Tick-borne encephalitis vaccination

A tick-borne encephalitis vaccination shall be administered to a person living or residing for an extended period in an area where there is a high risk of tick-borne encephalitis. The National Institute for Health and Welfare shall specify the grounds for vaccination and risk areas.

The vaccines are listed in the Annex.

Section 4

Vaccinations in the Defence Forces and the Finnish Border Guard

Vaccinations against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, meningococcal disease, influenza, measles, parotitis and rubella shall be administered to persons commencing military service and service in the Defence Forces of Finland and the Finnish Border Guard. The vaccination shall be administered to those who do not have immunity conferred by vaccination or a history of disease. Vaccination against tick-borne encephalitis shall also be administered to persons performing their service in high-risk locations. The National Institute for Health and Welfare shall specify the applicable vaccines and grounds for vaccination.

The vaccines are listed in the Annex.

Section 5

Vaccinations to combat epidemics of communicable diseases

The vaccines of the national vaccination programme may be used for vaccinating various population groups as necessary when a disease that the vaccination prevents is threatening to cause an epidemic of a communicable disease. The National Institute for Health and Welfare shall specify the applicable vaccines and grounds for vaccination.

Section 6

Vaccination

A medical practitioner shall be responsible for planning and implementing vaccination activities. Vaccination injections shall only be administered by a medical practitioner or by a nurse, public health nurse or midwife with the appropriate vaccination training.

Section 7

Entry of vaccination details in patient records

Administered vaccinations shall be entered in the patient record either on a vaccination monitoring form or at the corresponding location in an electronic information system. The date of vaccination, the name of the vaccine, the batch number, the injection site, the vaccination method and the vaccinator shall be entered on the form or in the information system.

Section 8

Rare vaccines, antibodies and research materials

The rare vaccines and antibodies that must be procured by the National Institute for Health and Welfare are specially licensed rabies immunoglobulin, botulinum serum and diphtheria serum.

The National Institute for Health and Welfare shall ensure the availability of rare vaccines, antibodies and research materials if there is no private importer of the product in Finland.

Section 9

Entry into force

This Decree shall enter into force on 13 March 2017.

Section 2, subsection 2 of this Decree shall enter into force on 1 September 2017.

Section 3 of this Decree shall remain in force until 31 December 2020.

A municipality shall arrange the varicella vaccinations of children and young adults referred to in the Annex with effect from 1 September 2017. A municipality shall also arrange booster vaccinations for varicella in 2017–2022 in accordance with grounds for vaccination separately specified by the National Institute for Health and Welfare.

Annex

Vaccines used in the national vaccination programme

Abbreviation	Vaccine
BCG	tuberculosis vaccine (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin)
Rotavirus	rotavirus vaccine
DTaP-IPV-Hib	diphtheria = D, tetanus = T, acellular pertussis = aP, polio (IP) and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine
DTaP-IPV	diphtheria = D, tetanus = T, acellular pertussis = aP and polio (IP) vaccine
dtap	diphtheria (d), tetanus (t) and acellular pertussis (aP) vaccine, lower antigen quantity
dT	diphtheria (d) and tetanus (T) vaccine
Hib	Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine
IPV	inactivated polio vaccine
MPR	morbili = M, parotitis = P and rubella = R vaccine
MPRV	morbili = M, parotitis = P, rubella = R vaccine and varicella=V vaccine
HAV	hepatitis A vaccine
HBV	hepatitis B vaccine
HAV-HBV	hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine
HPV	human papillomavirus vaccine
influenza	influenza vaccine
TBE	Tick-borne encephalitis vaccine
PCV	pneumococcal conjugate vaccine
PPV	pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine
Men	meningococcal vaccine
varicella	varicella vaccine

Vaccinations of children and young adults

<i>Vaccine</i>	<i>Recommended age for vaccination or vaccination series</i>
Rotavirus	from 6 weeks, as separately scheduled by the National Institute for Health and Welfare
DTaP-IPV-Hib+PCV	3 months
DTaP-IPV-Hib+PCV	5 months
DTaP-IPV-Hib+PCV	12 months
MPR	12–18 months
varicella	18 months
DTaP-IPV	4 years
MPR +varicella or MPRV	6 years
HPV	from 11–12 years for girls, as separately scheduled by the National Institute for Health and Welfare
dtap	14–15 years

If the vaccination programme has not been implemented in accordance with the recommended timetable, vaccination immunity shall be boosted for the missing vaccine doses applying an individual programme.

Separate vaccinations or other vaccination combinations may be used instead of the DTaP-IPV-Hib and DTaP-IPV combination vaccine if this is medically justified or if these combination vaccines are not available.

Adult vaccinations

Every adult should have the immunity conferred by no fewer than three tetanus, diphtheria and polio vaccinations. Every adult should also have immunity against measles, rubella and parotitis, due either to a history of diseases or to two MPR vaccine doses. Adult vaccination immunity that is found to be deficient in respect of these vaccinations shall be boosted. Vaccinations shall thereafter be continued in accordance with the vaccines and grounds for vaccination specified by the National Institute for Health and Welfare.

Vaccinations in accordance with section 2 of the Decree

The following vaccinations shall be administered in accordance with the grounds for vaccination specified by the National Institute for Health and Welfare:

<i>Vaccine</i>	<i>Age from which vaccination may be administered</i>
BCG	0 days
HBV	0 days
HAV	12 months
HAV-HBV	12 months
Influenza	6 months
PCV	2 months
PPV	2 years

Vaccinations in accordance with section 3 of the Decree

The following vaccinations shall be administered in accordance with the grounds for vaccination and risk areas specified by the National Institute for Health and Welfare:

<i>Vaccine</i>	<i>Age from which vaccination may be administered</i>
TBE	12 months

Vaccinations in accordance with section 4 of the Decree

The following vaccinations shall be administered in the Defence Forces and the Finnish Border Guard:

dT

dtap

Men

Influenza

MPR to a person with insufficient immunity to measles, parotitis or rubella

TBE persons performing their service in risk areas specified by the National Institute for Health and Welfare.