

Vaccines and immunisations

Immunisations

Your child should not have any live immunisations during treatment and for six months afterwards. Routine immunisations will usually be delayed until the end of treatment.

It is safe to be around people who have had immunisations and family members should continue with routine immunisations as normal. Siblings who have not had chickenpox should receive the chickenpox vaccine (please see the separate sheet on chickenpox in the **RED** section for more information).

Post treatment immunisations

Once treatment is finished, your consultant will discuss the most appropriate time to re-immunise your child with you.

Because children may lose immunity during treatment, we recommend booster doses of the routine childhood immunisations, usually six months after treatment has finished.

Your consultant will send a specific list of the vaccines your child requires to your GP.

Seasonal flu and swine flu

Seasonal flu (including swine flu) should be given each year during treatment and for six months afterwards (this is therefore an exception to the no immunisation rule). Seasonal flu vaccinations should ideally be given when your child is not neutropenic (i.e. neutrophils must be above 0.5) and not in the 48 hours before IV chemotherapy is due.

We also recommend that all immediate family members/household contacts receive the seasonal flu vaccination.