

Vaccination **protects people**, including infants and children, against diseases that could otherwise cause serious health problems, permanent disability or death.

It is the best way to acquire immunity against vaccine-preventable diseases, as opposed to immunity attained by getting the disease. Immunity which results from vaccination usually lasts for years, and sometimes for a lifetime.

Vaccination also helps **prevent the spread of disease in communities**. When a large percentage of a population is vaccinated, infectious diseases cannot easily spread. This is particularly important for the most vulnerable people who cannot be protected by vaccination.

Therefore, it is extremely important to complete your and your family's vaccination according to the vaccination offered by the host country according to its vaccination schedule.

### Register with the national health system

If you are fleeing Ukraine and receive temporary protection in your host EU country, you will have access to national healthcare services. [More information on healthcare services](#)

### How to get vaccinated

People fleeing Ukraine and relocating to a country in the EU should register and obtain a temporary residence permit in the host EU country to have access to healthcare.

If you or your family have not been vaccinated, or if the vaccination series is incomplete, you may be vaccinated against most common vaccine preventable diseases in the EU.

You can also get catch-up vaccinations if you have not yet been given the full series of doses against one or more of these diseases.

If you are unsure if you or your child have had all the recommended vaccinations, you should tell your general practitioner or another healthcare worker responsible for vaccination.

Vaccine-preventable diseases include:

- COVID-19
- measles
- mumps
- rubella
- diphtheria
- tetanus
- pertussis
- poliomyelitis
- hepatitis A and B

### When to get vaccinated

Vaccinations are offered to all age groups, with the schedule depending on the type of vaccine and with some variations in the schedules depending on the country. The differences take into account different circumstances and healthcare systems.

**The same level of protection is ensured in each EU/EEA country.** Vaccines in the national schedules are given in the appropriate timeframes to ensure adequate protection.

The **childhood vaccination schedules** in all EU/EEA countries include the vaccination against:

- measles
- mumps
- rubella
- diphtheria
- tetanus
- whooping cough
- poliomyelitis
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib)
- human papillomavirus (for adolescent/pre-adolescent girls).

Children in some EU/EEA countries are also offered protection through vaccination against:

- hepatitis A
- hepatitis B, in some countries available only for children at high risk of infection
- influenza (flu)
- invasive disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*
- invasive disease caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
- rotavirus
- tuberculosis
- varicella

In addition, all EU/EEA countries have recommendations for the flu vaccination for older people and key risk groups.

Please find additional information below:

### **Vaccine scheduler**

[Tool with vaccine schedules for all EU/EEA countries \(in English\)](#)

### **Information from EU countries on vaccines**

[Information on vaccines for people fleeing Ukraine from EU countries](#)

## Vaccine safety

Vaccines **are generally very safe** for most people and the side effects after getting vaccinated are mostly mild and usually last one to two days. The most common side effects are fever and redness, as well as swelling and tenderness around the area where the needle went into the skin.

Certain rare or very rare side effects may emerge in only a few people per every million people who get vaccinated.

Before being approved for use in the EU, vaccines have to undergo a **rigorous approval process** to ensure they are effective and safe.

After a vaccine is approved, EU and national authorities continuously monitor side effects in people who have received the vaccine.

Overall, the benefits of vaccination are greater than the risks.

## About this page

The European Vaccination Information Portal (EVIP) is a website providing accurate, objective and up-to-date evidence on vaccines and vaccination in general. This section is a condensed version of the portal and some additional information, tailored to people fleeing the war in Ukraine.

It was developed by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), in partnership with the European Commission's Department on Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA).