

Vaccinations Before Hospital Admission and Surgery

At Hyogo Prefectural Kobe Children's Hospital, the health and safety of our young patients are our top priorities. To ensure a secure environment for everyone, we request that your child receive vaccinations before hospital admission. Vaccinations play a crucial role in preventing the spread of infectious diseases such as chickenpox, measles, whooping cough, mumps, etc. Administering the right vaccines at the right time helps shield your child and other children from these illnesses.

Why do vaccinations matter?:

- ① **Prevent the cancellation of your child's surgery and/or examinations:** If your child develops an infectious disease during their hospital stay, elective surgery and/or examinations will be postponed. Vaccinations help ensure that your child can undergo these procedures as planned.
- ② **Protect other children:** Infectious diseases can be transmitted to other children in the hospital. We treat children with weakened immune systems who cannot receive vaccinations. If these children are exposed to such infectious disease, they may be put at risk of severe illness or even death.

Is your child eligible to receive vaccines?:

If your child has a regular immune system, yes.

However, the following children **MAY NOT BE** eligible for vaccinations (please consult with your doctor):

- Those with immunodeficiency or potential immunodeficiency.
- Those taking immunosuppressive drugs or corticosteroids.
- Those undergoing treatment with biological agents.
- Those receiving treatment for a malignant tumor.

Recommended Timing of Vaccinations:

Types of Vaccines	Recommended Interval Between Vaccinations and Hospital Admission
Measles-rubella combination (MR), Varicella(chickenpox), Mumps	3 weeks
Rotavirus, BCG, Covid-19 All inactivated vaccines Haemophilus influenza type b(Hib), Pediatric pneumococcal, Hepatitis B, Quadruple combination (DPT-IPV) (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio) Triple combination (DPT), Double combination (DT), Japanese encephalitis, Influenza, Human papillomavirus, etc.	2 weeks

For vaccines not listed above, please consult with your doctor.

Why is it important to receive vaccinations several weeks before hospital admission?:

There are several important reasons:

- It takes several weeks for vaccines to become fully effective.
- Fever and fatigue are normal physical reactions after vaccinations. However, surgery and/or examinations may need to be postponed, because fever and fatigue may also be signs of cold or infection. To prevent this from happening, please have your child vaccinated several weeks before.
- Vaccinations can become less effective if surgery or general anesthesia is given immediately after vaccinations. These medical procedures may suppress the immune system.

Deadline for Vaccinations Before Scheduled Hospital Admission:

Although we recommend your child receive their vaccines several weeks before admission, the official deadline is to have them completed **at least 3 days before** the scheduled hospital admission. For example, if your child's admission is scheduled for Monday, please ensure vaccinations are completed by Friday, any time that day.

Emergency Hospital Admission and/or Surgery:

In the case of emergency hospital admission and/or surgery, the procedure(s) will not be postponed, even if your child is vaccinated immediately before.

Post-Discharge and Post-Surgery Vaccinations:

Vaccinations after discharge or surgery are possible at any time once the child is well and has fully recovered from the procedure. However, if your child has received a blood transfusion or immunoglobulin, more time might be needed before receiving vaccinations. Please consult with your doctor for personalized advice.

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to our healthcare team. Thank you for your cooperation in prioritizing the health and well-being of your child and other children.

Infection Control Team
Hyogo Prefectural Kobe Children's Hospital