

What vaccinations are recommended for people with HIV?

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The purpose of vaccinations and immunisations is to protect a person from infectious diseases. Compared to HIV-negative people, people living with HIV have increased vulnerability to diseases that could be prevented by vaccines.

Vaccines recommended for people living with HIV

Below is a list of vaccinations that an adult living with HIV may need, based on the recommendations of the British HIV Association (BHIVA). The first column highlights whether the vaccine should be taken generally or when **travelling to particular countries**.

The second and third columns name the preventable diseases and how many times a vaccine needs to be taken to be effective. The interval between doses will depend on the vaccine.

[The latest news and research on vaccinations & immunisations](#)

Many vaccines are recommended for anyone who hasn't previously had the infection or been vaccinated, but some are for specific groups or aren't

recommended for everyone. When this is the case, it is indicated in the fourth column.

	Vaccine	Number of doses	Additional information
General vaccines	Hepatitis B	4 doses	
	Flu (influenza)	1 dose (annually)	
	Pneumococcus	1 dose	
	Human <i>papillomavirus</i> (HPV)	3 doses	Recommended for women up to the age of 40, gay and bisexual men up to the age of 40, and heterosexual men up to the age of 26.
	Hepatitis A	2-3 doses	Recommended for people travelling to countries where hepatitis A is common, gay and bisexual men, drug users, and other specific groups.
	Meningococcus	2 doses	Recommended for people under 25 years and sometimes for gay and bisexual men.
	Whooping cough (pertussis)	1 dose	Recommended during pregnancy.
	Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	2 doses	Not recommended if CD4 count is below 200.
	Chickenpox (varicella)	2 doses	Recommended for people who have never had chickenpox. Not recommended if CD4 cell is below 200 or during pregnancy.
	Shingles (herpes zoster)	1 dose	Recommended for people over 70 years.

			Not recommended if CD4 count is below 200. Not recommended during pregnancy or whilst breastfeeding.
Vaccines associated with travel	Cholera	2 doses	
	Japanese encephalitis	2 doses	
	Tick-borne encephalitis	3-4 doses	
	Tetanus	1 dose	
	Diphtheria	1 dose	
	Polio	1 dose	
	Rabies	3 doses	
	Typhoid	1 dose	
	Yellow fever	1 dose	Not recommended if CD4 count is below 200. Not recommended for people over 60 years of age.

BHIVA also has recommendations on vaccinations that may be needed because of your job (for example, in a laboratory, in healthcare or working with animals). They can be found in BHIVA's guideline document.

Some of these vaccinations may be available from your HIV clinic, but for others you may need to see your GP. In some cases, you may need to have disclosed your HIV status to your GP to be eligible for free vaccination.

Vaccines NOT recommended for people living with HIV

Although vaccines generally provide protection from infectious diseases, some are too risky to take for people living with HIV. They include:

- * live influenza vaccine
- * live smallpox vaccine
- * BCG (for TB)
- * live typhoid vaccine.