

# Guide to vaccinations for the immunosuppressed patient

Vaccinations protect an individual from specific diseases that can cause sickness, disability or severe complications. They also boost the individual's defence system which is called the immune system.

## Live and not live vaccinations

There are two types of vaccines, live (active) and not live (inactivated). Live vaccines contain a small weakened amount of the live virus or bacteria, so that it cannot cause the infection associated with the virus or bacteria. Whereas the inactive vaccines are those that are made from killed micro-organisms through processes or chemicals, therefore does not cause disease. If your immune system is suppressed because of the medicines you are taking, you must avoid 'live' vaccines and only take 'non live' vaccines. Examples of 'live' and 'non live' vaccinations are listed in the table below:

<b>Examples of 'Live' Vaccinations - an immunosuppressed patient <b>should not</b> receive these</b>	<b>Examples of vaccines that are 'not live' - an immunosuppressed patient can have these</b>
BCG Polio (oral) Yellow fever Typhoid (oral) MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)	Cholera Diphtheria Haemophilus influenza (Hib) Hepatitis A Hepatitis B Mantoux test Meningococcal A, C, Y, W135 Rabies Tetanus Typhoid (injection) Typhoid/Hep A combination (injection) Pertussis Pneumococcal Influenza Inactivated Polio (injection)



## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Vaccination should always be postponed if you are suffering from an acute illness and with a fever, however if you have a minor illness without a fever you can have the vaccination.
- Live vaccines should be avoided for up to 3 months after stopping immunosuppressive treatment.
- Immunosuppressive treatment should not be started until 4 weeks after vaccination with live vaccines.

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Rheumatology Advice Line - 01895 279673

For more information contact the pharmacy drug helpline on 01895 279652 (between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday)

## Languages/ Alternative Formats

Please ask if you require this information in other languages, large print or audio format. Please contact: 01895 279973

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Jeżeli chciałbyś uzyskać te informacje w innym języku, w dużej czcionce lub w formie audio, poproś pracownika oddziału o kontakt z biurem informacji pacjenta (patient information) pod numerem telefonu: 01895 279973.

如果你需要這些資料的其他語言版本、大字体、或音頻格式，請致電01895 279 973 查詢。

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