

# Vaccination coverage in Wales

Vaccination rates are below target.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup> Every vaccination is a potential illness averted or life saved<sup>5</sup>

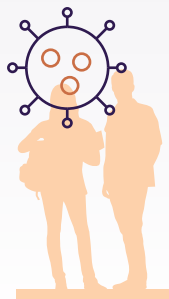
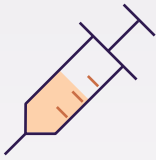
Vaccination inequalities are associated with many factors, including age, geography, socio-economic status and ethnicity<sup>9</sup>

NHS Wales aims to reduce illness and mortality by **increasing vaccination uptake**<sup>10</sup>



High uptake helps protect people who are too young or too ill to have vaccines themselves.<sup>6</sup>

There is an **11 percentage points difference** in vaccination uptake between **four year olds resident in the least and most deprived areas** of Wales.<sup>7</sup>



**Urban and university settings are at the highest risk of measles outbreaks** due to lower vaccination rates among young people. Vaccination can prevent measles.<sup>8</sup>

Variation in vaccination coverage rates (VCR) across Wales<sup>2,3,4,7</sup>



The 2023 National Immunisation Framework sets out priorities for **transforming vaccination in Wales**:



**Equity:** Health boards should ensure fair access and opportunity to take up the offer of vaccination.



**Digitally enabled vaccination:** New solutions to support citizens and NHS delivery.



**Vaccination literacy:** Clear information and robust communications to improve public understanding of the importance of vaccination.<sup>10</sup>

1. Senedd Cymru Welsh Parliament, 'Preventable disease on the rise: targeting improvement in childhood vaccine uptake', January 2025, accessed August 2025, available at <https://research.senedd.wales/research-articles/preventable-disease-on-the-rise-targeting-improvements-in-childhood-vaccine-uptake/>. 2. Public Health Wales Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme, 'Weekly Influenza and Acute Respiratory Infection Report: Influenza Vaccination Data', May 2025, available at <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/flu-vaccine/weekly-influenza-and-acute-respiratory-infection-report/>. 3. Public Health Wales Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme, 'Wales COVID-19 Vaccination Weekly Surveillance Summary for the Spring 2025 campaign', July 2025, available at [https://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk/CommunitySurveillanceDocs.nsf/3d04669c9e1e0a880257062003b246b/cf7a9a9adcdabb0a8025866b003a51a1/\\$24FILE/Wales%20COVID-19%20vaccination%20surveillance%20weekly%20report.pdf](https://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk/CommunitySurveillanceDocs.nsf/3d04669c9e1e0a880257062003b246b/cf7a9a9adcdabb0a8025866b003a51a1/$24FILE/Wales%20COVID-19%20vaccination%20surveillance%20weekly%20report.pdf). 4. Public Health Wales Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme, 'Statement on HPV vaccination rates in Wales', January 2023, available at <https://phw.nhs.wales/news/statement-on-hpv-vaccination-rates-in-wales/>. 5. NHS England, 'NHS Vaccination Strategy', December 2023, accessed December 2024, available at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/nhs-vaccination-strategy/#summary>. 6. NHS111 Wales, 'Vaccinations', accessed August 2025, available at <https://111.wales.nhs.uk/livewell/vaccinations/Why%20vaccination%20is%20important/>. 7. Public Health Wales Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme, 'Vaccine uptake in children in Wales, COVER Annual report 2025', June 2025, available at <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/-cover-national-childhood-immunisation-uptake-data/cover-archive-folder/annual-reports/cover-annual-report-202425>. 8. Public Health Wales, 'Targeted action can help prevent Measles outbreaks in Wales', July 2025, accessed September 2025, available at <https://phw.nhs.wales/news/targeted-action-can-help-prevent-measles-outbreaks-in-wales/>. 9. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, 'Vaccine uptake in the general population: NICE guideline', May 2022, available at [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng218](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng218). 10. Welsh Government, 'National Immunisation Framework for Wales', 2023, available at <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-10/national-immunisation-framework-for-wales.pdf>