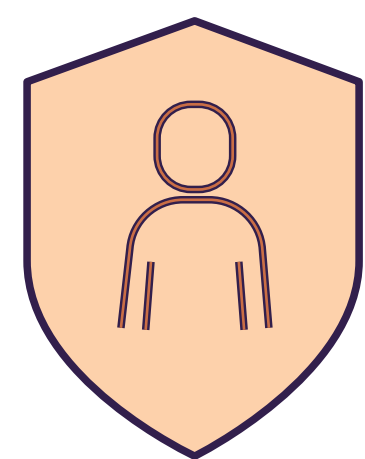


Vaccination coverage in Wales

Vaccination rates are below target.^{1,2} Every vaccination is a potential illness averted or life saved³

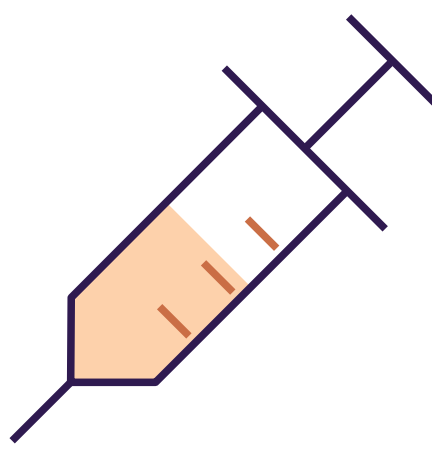
Vaccination inequalities are associated with many factors, including age, geography, socio-economic status and ethnicity^{1,6}

The Welsh Government aims to reduce illness and mortality by **increasing vaccination uptake**⁸

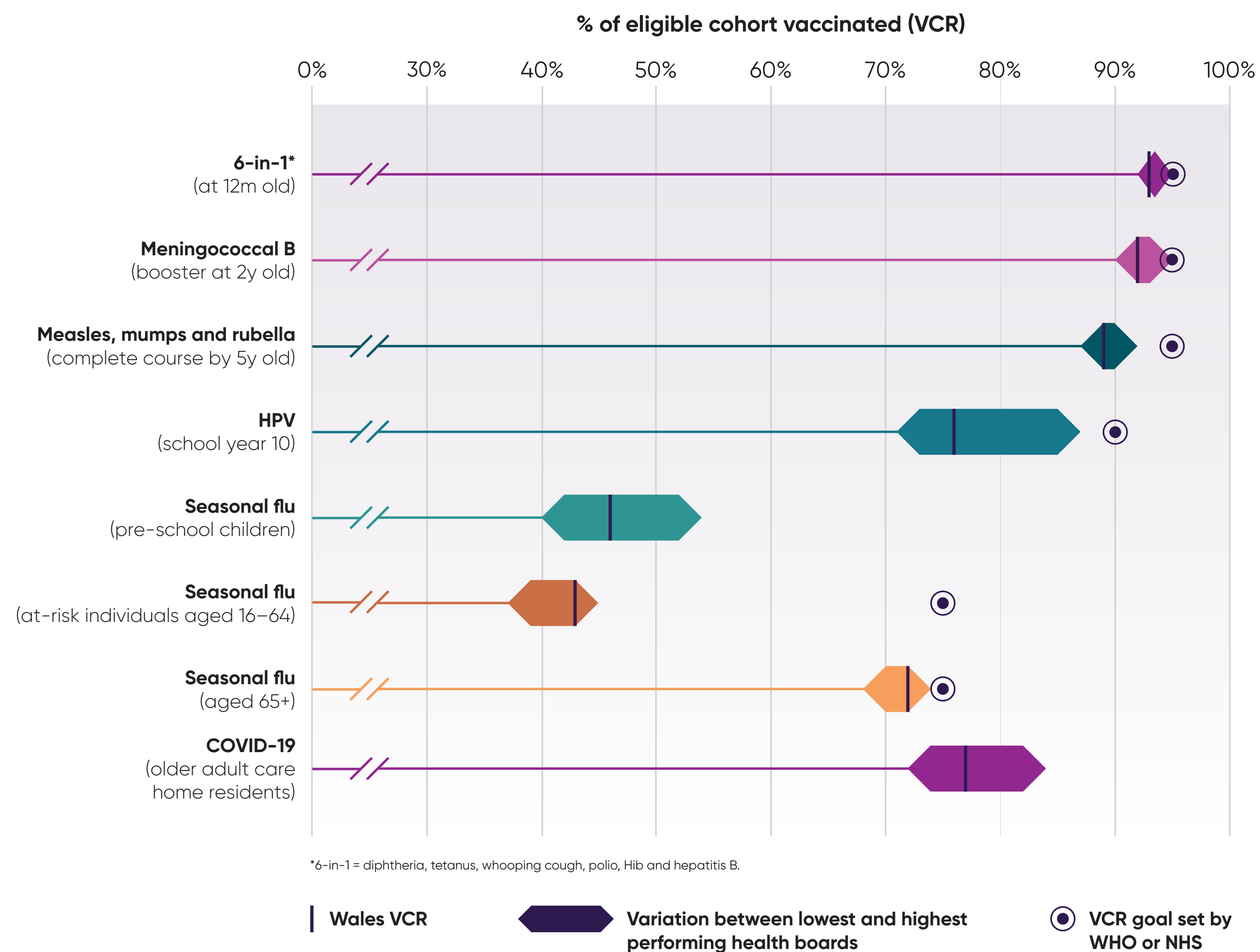


High uptake **helps protect people** too young or too ill to have vaccines themselves.⁴

There is a **9.3 percentage points difference** in vaccination uptake between **4 year-olds** resident in the least and most deprived areas of Wales.¹



Variation in vaccination coverage rates (VCR) across Wales^{1,2,7}



The 2023 National Immunisation Framework set out 6 priorities for **transforming vaccination in Wales**, including:



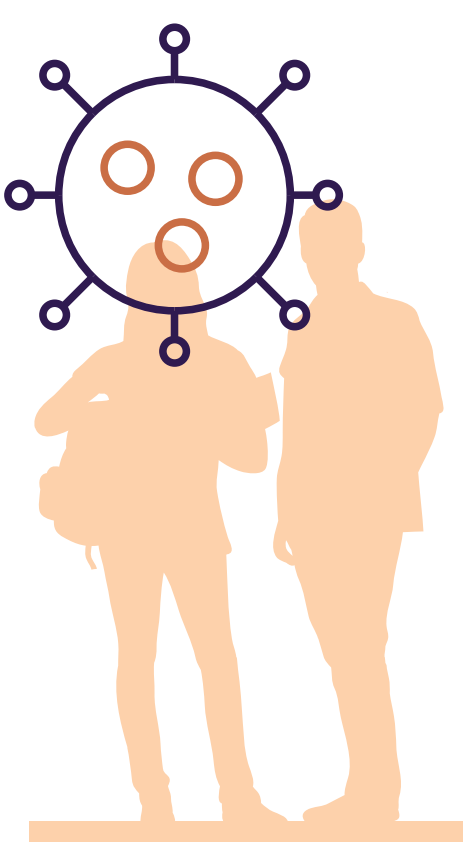
Equity: Health boards should ensure fair access and opportunity to take up the offer of vaccination.



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.⁸



University towns are at the highest risk of measles outbreaks due to lower vaccination rates among young people. Vaccination can prevent measles.⁵

1. Public Health Wales, 'Annual COVER Report 2025-26', July 2026, Available from <https://phw.nhs.wales/reports/vaccine-uptake-in-children-in-wales-cover-annual-report-2025-to-2026/>. 2. Public Health Wales Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme, 'Weekly Influenza and Accurate Respiratory Infection Report; Influenza Vaccination Data', 25/3/25, available at <https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/flu-vaccine/weekly-influenza-and-acute-respiratory-infection-report/>. 3. NHS England, 'NHS Vaccination Strategy', December 2023, accessed December 2024, available at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/long-read/nhs-vaccination-strategy/#summary>. 4. NHS111 Wales, 'Vaccinations', accessed August 2026, available at <https://111.wales.nhs.uk/livewell/vaccinations/Why%20vaccination%20is%20important/>. 5. Public Health Wales, 'Modelling of the potential for outbreaks of Measles in Wales', May 2025, accessed August 2026, available at <https://phw.nhs.wales/reports/modelling-of-the-potential-for-outbreaks-of-measles-in-wales/>. 6. 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. 7. Public Health Wales, 'Wales COVID-19 Vaccination Weekly Surveillance Summary' (winter 2025-26 vaccination campaign), 19/02/2026, available at [https://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk/CommunitySurveillanceDocs.nsf/3dc04669c9e1eaa880257062003b246b/cf7a9a9adcdabb0a8025866b003a51a1/\\$FILE/Wales%20COVID-19%20vaccination%20surveillance%20weekly%20report.pdf](https://www2.nphs.wales.nhs.uk/CommunitySurveillanceDocs.nsf/3dc04669c9e1eaa880257062003b246b/cf7a9a9adcdabb0a8025866b003a51a1/$FILE/Wales%20COVID-19%20vaccination%20surveillance%20weekly%20report.pdf). 8. 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>.