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Childhood vaccine policy across 6 countries

CHILDHOOD SNAPSHOT 2026



Childhood immunisation across Europe and the US

Selected programmes | birth–18 years | national baselines | 12 Nov 2026

Programme (vaccine / prevention)	Typical window (not a shared schedule)	France OFFICIAL SOURCE	UK (England) OFFICIAL SOURCE	Germany OFFICIAL SOURCE	Spain OFFICIAL SOURCE	Italy OFFICIAL SOURCE	USA OFFICIAL SOURCE
Rotavirus oral infant series	from 6 w; product limit	✓ 2, 3 / 2, 3, 4 mo product dependent	✓ 8, 12 weeks two doses	✓ from 6 weeks 2 or 3 doses	✓ from 6 weeks product dependent	✓ from 6 weeks 2 or 3 doses	✓ 2, 4 (+6) months product dependent
Influenza seasonal	6 months–18 years	◐ 6 mo+ if at risk 2–17 y: may be offered	◐ 2–3 y + school at risk from 6 months	● 6 mo+ if at risk not universal	✓ 6–59 months older: if at risk	✓ 6 months–6 years annual seasonal offer	✓ 6 months–18 years annual vaccination
Varicella chickenpox	from ~12 months	○ no infant routine selected susceptible	◐ MMRV: birth cohort timing varies; see notes	✓ 11, 15 months two doses	✓ 15 mo; 3–4 years two doses	✓ 12 mo; 5–6 years two doses	✓ 12–15 mo; 4–6 y two doses
Meningococcal B MenB	infancy / teens	✓ 3, 5, 12 months 15–18 y: may be offered	✓ 8, 12 w; 12 mo infant series	✓ 2, 4, 12 months infant series	✓ 2, 4, 12 months infant series	✓ 3, 5, 15 months infant series	◐ 16–18 y preferred shared clinical decision
Meningococcal ACWY MenACWY	infancy / teens	✓ 6, 12 mo; 11–14 y infant + adolescent	✓ 14 years school year 9	✓ 12–14 years one routine dose	✓ 12 years MenC in infancy†	✓ 12 mo; from 12 y adolescent booster	✓ 11–12; 16 years two teen doses
HPV papillomavirus	9–18 years	✓ 11–14 years 2 doses if start 11–14	✓ 12–13 years one routine dose	✓ 9–14 years 2 doses if start 9–14	✓ 12 years one routine dose	✓ from 11 years 2 if start <15; else 3	✓ 11–12 years 2 or 3 by start age
RSV prevention passive infant protection	birth / first season	◐ infant mAb OR maternal 32–36 SA	◐ maternal from 28 w mAb: <32 w / risk	✓ infant mAb: 1st season broad first-season offer	✓ infant mAb: <6 mo eligible seasonal cohort	◐ infant mAb: regional confirm local programme	◐ maternal vaccine OR eligible infant mAb

✓ General age offer ◐ Conditional / cohort / region ● At-risk group ○ No routine offer

Rotavirus: final age is product-specific (up to 24 or 32 weeks in STIKO guidance). SA = weeks of amenorrhoea.
FR MenB: 15–24 y may be offered (15–18 shown). Spain infant MenC ≠ teen MenACWY. England MMRV: birth cohort.

KEY DIFFERENCES AT A GLANCE

- Influenza: England school cohorts and US 6m+; Germany targets risk groups.
- HPV: one routine dose in Spain and UK; two in several other countries.
- MenACWY: France offers an infant series; Germany and US start in teens.
- RSV: maternal vaccination and infant antibodies follow distinct paths.

WHY DO STRATEGIES DIFFER?

- Programmes weigh burden, safety, effectiveness and economic impact.
- England MMRV rollout changes with birth cohort and transition rules.
- Spain has a national baseline with autonomous-community delivery.
- Italy: infant RSV rollout requires regional verification.

Main takeaway | **Similar pathogens, different schedules:** age, eligibility, target groups and delivery rules vary.

SELECTED PROGRAMMES - NOT A COMPLETE SCHEDULE