

VACCINATIONS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS



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STRENGTHENING REFUGEE AND MIGRANT CHILDREN'S HEALTH STATUS

IN SOUTHERN AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

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for every child



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WHAT ARE VACCINES?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), **immunisation is a global health and development** success, saving millions of lives every year. Vaccines reduce the risk of getting a disease by working with your body's natural defences. We now have vaccines to prevent more than 20 life-threatening diseases, helping people of all ages live longer, healthier lives.

Vaccines are extremely important for the life and health of your children. Vaccines protect them against some of the most



dangerous diseases; therefore it is of ultimate importance to have your children vaccinated in a systemic way and as prescribed by physicians.

By observing the immunisation schedule of the country you are residing in, you

can protect your children against severe diseases and even death. Postponing a vaccine makes your child more vulnerable.

Different countries tend to have different immunisation schedules depending on prevalent diseases. **The effective Immunisation Schedule in Bulgaria includes mandatory prophylactic vaccinations and revaccinations at relevant ages.** You can obtain information on the National Immunisation Schedule in Bulgaria from your child's physician.

WHAT IS THE VACCINE SYSTEM IN BULGARIA?

In Bulgaria every adult person must have a General Practitioner, while paediatricians take care of the health of children. The Bulgarian health care system is paid. This means that every person pays mandatory contributions every month for public health care insurance to be able to use the services provided by the system.

It is important to know that the health care contributions of children are borne by the Bulgarian state!

It is recommended that your child get a routine check-up by a paediatrician at least once every six months!

WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED TO BE VACCINATED?

In addition to saving lives, in Bulgaria **vaccines are a requirement for your child to be able to attend kindergarten and school: your child should have all the vaccines for the relevant age, along with an immunity passport.**



WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT HAVE A RECORD OF MY CHILD'S VACCINATION HISTORY?

In case there is no data whether your child had a vaccine in a country of origin or at the transit centres in Greece or Turkey, a test will be administered to determine if there are antibodies and hence whether vaccination is needed.

Sometimes, if it is not clear if an immunisation has been made, physicians would recommend having the vaccine again, the additional vaccination being completely safe.

Improved access to state health through provision of advice, interpretation and accompanying assistance

To be able to understand what happens when you see a physician or have a vaccination, it is good to know how the health care system in Bulgaria works and to have an interpreter by your side.

UNICEF's partner, the Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria can provide you with a mediator to interpret for you during the medical check-up in Sofia, as well as a social worker to accompany and counsel you. In Haskovo region, you can be supported by Mission Wings Foundation.



YOU CAN GET SUPPORT AT:

Council of Refugee Women in Bulgaria

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/crwbg>

<http://crw-bg.org/>

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