



## How important are Vaccination in Zambian Children?

Vaccination is a critical public health intervention aimed at preventing infectious diseases among children. In Zambia, the government, alongside various health organizations, has established a comprehensive immunization schedule to protect children from vaccine-preventable diseases. This brochure provides detailed information about the vaccines available for children in Zambia, their importance, and the recommended vaccination schedule.

### Importance of Vaccination

Vaccines play a vital role in safeguarding children's health by:

- **Preventing Diseases:** Vaccines help prevent serious illnesses such as measles, polio, and hepatitis B.
- **Reducing Mortality:** Immunization significantly reduces child mortality rates associated with infectious diseases.
- **Promoting Herd Immunity:** High vaccination coverage helps protect those who cannot be vaccinated due to medical reasons by reducing the overall prevalence of diseases.

### Recommended Vaccines for Children

In Zambia, the following vaccines are included in the national immunization schedule:

#### 1. BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guérin)

Disease Prevented: Tuberculosis (TB)

Administration Age: At birth or within the first month of life

Route: Intradermal injection



## **2. OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine)**

Disease Prevented: Poliomyelitis

Administration Age: At birth (OPV0), 6 weeks, 10 weeks, and 14 weeks

Route: Oral

## **3. DPT (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus)**

Diseases Prevented: Diphtheria, whooping cough (pertussis), and tetanus

Administration Age: 6 weeks, 10 weeks, and 14 weeks

Route: Intramuscular injection

## **4. Hepatitis B Vaccine**

Disease Prevented: Hepatitis B

Administration Age: At birth (HepB0), 6 weeks, and 14 weeks

Route: Intramuscular injection

## **5. Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b) Vaccine**

Disease Prevented: Meningitis and pneumonia caused by Hib

Administration Age: 6 weeks, 10 weeks, and 14 weeks

Route: Intramuscular injection

## **6. Rotavirus Vaccine**

Disease Prevented: Severe diarrhea caused by rotavirus

Administration Age: At 6 weeks and 10 weeks

Route: Oral



### 7. PCV (Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine)

Disease Prevented: Pneumonia and meningitis caused by pneumococcus bacteria

Administration Age: At 6 weeks, 10 weeks, and a booster at 12 months

Route: Intramuscular injection

### 8. Measles Vaccine

Disease Prevented: Measles

Administration Age: First dose at 9 months; second dose at 18 months

Route: Subcutaneous injection

### Vaccination Schedule Overview

The Zambian immunization schedule is designed to ensure that children receive vaccinations at specific ages to maximize their effectiveness:

Birth	BCG, OPV0, HepB0
6 Weeks	OPV1, DPT1, HepB1, Hib1, Rotavirus1
10 Weeks	OPV2, DPT2, Hib2
14 Weeks	OPV3, DPT3, HepB2
9 Months	Measles
12 Months	PCV Booster
18 Months	Measles Second Dose

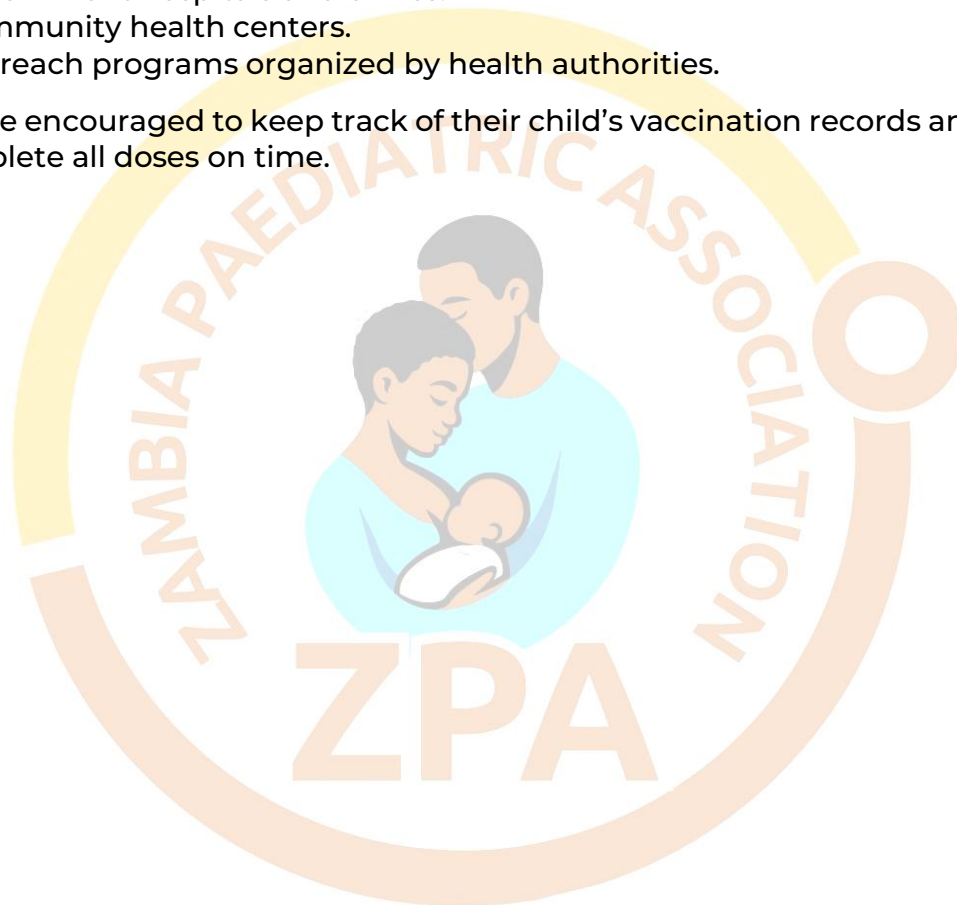


### Where to Get Vaccinated

Vaccinations are provided free of charge at various healthcare facilities across Zambia including:

- Government hospitals and clinics.
- Community health centers.
- Outreach programs organized by health authorities.

Parents are encouraged to keep track of their child's vaccination records and ensure they complete all doses on time.





## Conclusion

Vaccination is essential for protecting children against preventable diseases in Zambia. By adhering to the national immunization schedule and ensuring timely vaccinations for their children, parents can contribute significantly to public health efforts aimed at reducing morbidity and mortality associated with infectious disease.

Child Age	Birth	6 weeks	10 weeks	14 weeks	6months	9months	18months
BCG	✓						
Oral Polio	✓	✓	✓				
DPT-HepB-Hib (penta)		✓	✓	✓			
Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV)		✓	✓	✓			
Rota Virus		✓	✓				
Inactivated Polio				✓			✓
Measles-Rubella						✓	✓

