

Universal BCG Fact Sheet

In the UK since 1989 the number of people with Tuberculosis (TB) has been on the increase. TB is a bacterial infection mostly found in the lungs but it can affect any part of the body.

In areas where this is above 40 per 100, 000, such as London and Luton, it is recommended that all newborn babies be given a BCG vaccination. BCG is a vaccination which helps protect against TB. All babies resident in Luton will be offered a BCG.

* Ideally, the vaccination will be offered before your baby is discharged from the hospital. However, this will not always be possible and you will be invited to attend a clinic within 2-3 weeks of your discharge home. This includes babies born at home. Full details of where and when to attend will be sent to you.
* The BCG will be given in the upper left arm. Immediately after the injection a raised blister will appear. Within 2-6 weeks this may develop into a small spot or ulcer, which may weep or ooze. It is important to leave it open to the air, although a dry dressing can be applied, especially when swimming.

The BCG should not be give if:

* Baby or mother are known to be HIV positive
* Known serious disease
* Baby on steroids
* Fever or raised temperature on day of vaccination
* Generalised septic skin condition

When the BCG is given, no further immunisation should be given in the same arm for 3 months. Other routine baby vaccinations can be given as indicated.

For further information, please contact:

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Further information is available in:

Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Estonian, Gujarati, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Turkish, Urdu

For further information:

Visit the NHS website [www.immunisation.nhs.uk](http://www.immunisation.nhs.uk)