

VI-3 Health and Medical Care for Infants

1. Medical Care for Children

Medical care for children is at an extremely high level as Japan's infant mortality rate is one of the lowest in the world. There are children's hospitals; however, it is recommended that you initially take children to your nearest pediatrician.

2. Vaccinations

Vaccinations are offered for infants and young children as per the table below. Municipalities determine matters such as the date and location of vaccinations. If the set conditions are met, vaccinations are essentially free of charge and the records of each vaccination are documented in the Maternal and Child Health Handbook. For more details, direct inquiries to facilities such as municipal (Public) health centers. (Appendix IX—3)

List of Vaccinations

Vaccinations	Age for Vaccination
DPT Vaccine: (Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus) + Polio	Age over 3 months and under 90 months old
DT Vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus)	Age over 11 and under 13 years old
BCG	Under 12 months old
MR2 (Measles, Rubella)	Age over 12 months and under 24 months old (initial vaccination) For 5 - 6 year-olds, one year prior to starting elementary school (2 nd vaccination)
Japanese encephalitis	Age over 6 months and under 90 months (initial vaccination) 9 to 12 years old (2 nd vaccination)
Pneumococcal conjugate	If initial dose administered between 2 - 7 months: Four times If initial dose administered between 7 months – 1 year: Three times If initial does administered between 1 - 2 years: Twice If initial does administered between 2 years – 5 years: Once
Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)	If initial dose administered between 2 - 7 months: Four times If initial dose administered between 7 months – 1 year: Three times If initial dose administered between 1– 5 years: Once
Human papillomavirus (HPV)	From 12 to 16 years old (Start of the Grade 6 to the end of 1 st year of high school)
Varicella	From 1 to 3 years old
Hepatitis B	Under 12 months old

※1The actual times/periods for vaccinations differ for each municipality. For more details, refer to the Maternal and Child Health Handbook or enquire at your municipal health center. (Appendix IX—3)

※2 Vaccinations other than these require a fee (influenza, mumps, etc.), thus it is recommended that you consult at your health care facility of choice.

3. Health Examinations (Kenkoshindan)

Municipalities provide free health examinations. The exact time for examinations and procedures differ with respect to the municipality, so for more details, inquire at your local municipal public health center. A reminder will be sent by mail from your local municipality.

4. Health Care Costs for Infants

- (1) **Health Care Assistance for Infants and Children**
Health care costs for children are covered by the health insurance of the parent/guardian. Usually, 20% of the total costs incurred are charged as self-pay. Some municipalities offer assistance towards part of health care costs for infants and children. For more details, inquire at your municipality's Child Welfare and Health, Hygiene, National Health Insurance or other section. (Appendix IX—1)

- (2) **Other Financial Assistance**
There are systems by which health care costs for premature infants, children with physical disabilities, and those with certain chronic illnesses among other similar conditions are covered at public expense. Inquire at a public health center (Appendix IX—3) or welfare office (Appendix IX—1) for more details.