

How Immunisation Works

Nursing

Active and passive immunity, herd protection, and what genuine contraindications are.

Immunisation trains the immune system to recognise an organism before a real exposure occurs.

ACTIVE

Slow, lasting

PASSIVE

Immediate, brief

SCHEDULES

Country-specific

- Active immunity: the body makes its own memory
- Passive immunity: ready-made antibody, short-lived
- Live vaccines are avoided in some immunosuppression
- Mild illness without fever is not a reason to defer
- High population coverage protects those who cannot be vaccinated
- Anaphylaxis to a previous dose is a true contraindication

LOOK FOR IT

A newborn carries maternal antibody for months — passive immunity that fades as its own response develops.

Educational reference. Schedules, eligibility and contraindications differ by country and change. Follow the national schedule.