

Project description

In order to assess how well children and adolescents in Switzerland are protected against infectious diseases, the existing vaccination protection is to be determined based on the evaluation of vaccination certificates. The basis for this review is Art. 24 of the Federal Law on the Control of Communicable Human Diseases (Epidemic Law, EpG, SR 818.101). Commissioned by the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) and in collaboration with the cantons, the Institute of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Prevention (EBPI) of the University of Zurich (UZH) is conducting a survey to determine the vaccination status of children aged 2, 8 and 16 years. The survey is funded by the cantons and the FOPH and is repeated every 3 years.

For the study, a number of children are randomly selected. The parents or guardians of these children are then contacted by letter by the health department of the respective canton, for canton Ticino by the Cantonal Office of Public Health (Ufficio del medico cantonale) and asked for their voluntary participation, which includes submitting a copy of the complete vaccination certificate (front and back). Regardless of their vaccination status and if they have been vaccinated outside of Switzerland, all children selected are requested to participate.

An internet platform has been created for the digital submission of the data, which can be accessed using a QR code. Here, parents can upload the images or a scan directly to the cantonal server, which is located in Switzerland. The data is uploaded in encrypted form and deleted from the server again after processing. Alternatively, the copy of the vaccination card can be sent with an enclosed prepaid reply envelope.

The vaccination data are extracted from the vaccination card and used to determine the vaccination coverage of children at the cantonal and national level. The results are published on the FOPH website: (<https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/de/home/gesund-leben/gesundheitsfoerderung-und-praevention/impfungen-prophylaxe/informationen-fachleute-gesundheitspersonal/durchimpfung.html>).

The data will be treated with absolute confidentiality in compliance with the applicable provisions of data protection legislation. As soon as the processing of the data is completed, all personal data will be anonymized and the original data records will be destroyed or irrevocably deleted after the end of the project, i.e. the name, address and all other personal data will be deleted and made illegible on the copy of the vaccination card. The datasets used in the study will be anonymous and will only be visible to the study staff. The data will never be passed on to third parties.

Parents and legal guardians have the possibility to revoke their participation at any time up until anonymization. Data processing is carried out in consultation with the data protection office / data protection officer of each canton.

We would like to emphasize that this is purely an assessment and in no way a monitoring of the individual vaccination status. Therefore, we will neither comment on the vaccination status nor give vaccination recommendations. However, in order to provide a reliable statement, it is important that the vaccination cards of all selected children are sent to us for verification; this is the only way to ensure that the vaccination coverage obtained is representative of the population.

This study is not related to the current Covid 19 pandemic and has been conducted since 1999.

Further information regarding vaccinations can be found on the FOPH website on Health Promotion and Prevention - Vaccinations & Prophylaxis: <https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/de/home/gesund-leben/gesundheitsfoerderung-und-praevention/impfungen-prophylaxe.html>.

If you have any further questions, please contact the persons responsible for the study at the Cantonal Office of Public Health:

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We thank you in advance for your valuable and appreciated support!