

Vaccinations in Finnish military conscripts

Adult Immunization Boad Helsinki 5.12.2024

Tuula Hannila-Handelberg MD, PhD

Military service in Finland

Who is required to perform military service

- All men who turn 18 take part in call-up that same year

- At the call-up conscripts' fitness for service is checked

-75% of age group

- Start-up for military service: 19 – 22y (30)

- Voluntary for women (since 1995)

2 intakes each year

- Start-up in January

- Start-up in July

Health care:

- Garrison health care centres

 \rightarrow \rightarrow vaccinations

- Specialized medical care will be provided by public hospitals

2

Immunization program

• Basic vaccines

- Tdap: Td \rightarrow Tdap
- Men ACWY: polysaccaride \rightarrow conjugate
- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella)
- Seasonal influenza

Additional vaccines

- TBE
- Spleen deficiency (very few only)
 - Haemphilus influenzae B (Hib)
 - Pneumococcal vaccine





- Immunization in garrisons
 - Vaccinations are given during the first 2 service weeks
 - Prior vaccination status is checked
 - Main idea is to vaccinate if Immunization status is not valid
- The vaccination data
 - Documented to medical record system \rightarrow transmitted to the National vaccination register
- Coverage
 - high (according to the Defence Forces)
- Legal basis for vaccinations
 - Communicaple Diseases Act and Decree
 - According to the Act, vaccinations are taken/given on a voluntary basis
 - Declining to take vaccinations does not prevent anyone from completing their military service







Kiitos Thank You

