

Important Information about **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio** and **Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib) Diseases** and Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis, Polio and Hib (DTaP-IPV-Hib) Vaccine

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY

What is Diphtheria?

- Diphtheria is a very serious illness caused by bacteria.
- It can cause an infection of the skin.
- It can cause an infection of the nose and throat that can affect breathing.
- It can cause heart failure or paralysis.
- Even with treatment, about 1 in 10 patients with respiratory diphtheria die. Without treatment, up to half of patients can die from the disease.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is Pertussis?

- Pertussis is also called whooping cough and is caused by bacteria.
- It can cause severe coughing spells that affect breathing. The disease usually lasts 6 to 12 weeks.
- It can cause pneumonia.
- It can cause seizures and even death in some cases.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is Tetanus?

- Tetanus is also called lockjaw.
- It is a disease that occurs when cuts or wounds are infected with tetanus bacteria.
- The bacteria, which are often found in dirt, make a poison that causes the muscles of the body to go into spasm.
- It can be a life-threatening disease.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is Polio?

- Polio is a disease caused by a virus. It can cause paralysis, long-term disability, or death.
- The paralysis can affect the muscles required for breathing.
- It has been eliminated in Canada through immunization.

What is Haemophilus Influenzae Type b (Hib)?

- It is a bacterial infection. It more often affects children under the age of 5.
- It is a major cause of meningitis and epiglottitis in children under age five.
- Meningitis is an infection of the membranes that cover the brain and spine.
- Epiglottitis is a swelling of the tissue that covers the windpipe. It may cause serious problems with breathing if not treated.
- Hib is a disease that can cause permanent paralysis. Hib can be life-threatening.
- Hib may also cause:
 - » pneumonia (infection of the lungs)
 - » pericarditis (infection of the lining of the heart)
 - » osteomyelitis (infection of the bone)
 - » empyema (buildup of pus in the lungs)
 - » infective arthritis
 - » bacteremia (blood infection)
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

- DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine is a vaccine which protects against 5 illnesses: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and Haemophilus Influenzae type b.
- The vaccine is given by injection.

Who should receive DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

- The Nova Scotia Routine Immunization Schedules for Children, Youth & Adults recommends that this vaccine be given at age 2, 4, 6, and 18 months.
- A booster shot of Tdap-IPV is recommended for children at age 4 to 6 years.

CAUTION

Who should NOT receive DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

- People who have had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose or any component of the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine.
- People who are sick or have a fever (temperature of 38.5°C/101.3°F or greater).

Please read other side.

What to Expect Following Immunization with **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis, Polio** and **Haemophilus Influenzae type b** (DTaP-IPV-Hib) Vaccine

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

This vaccine is important in protecting your child from Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio and Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib).

People should stay in the clinic for at least 15 minutes after receiving any type of immunization to monitor possible reaction. As with any vaccine there is a slight possibility that a more serious reaction could occur.

What are the possible side effects of the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

Many children have no side effects after immunization. However, some may experience:

- Soreness, redness, or swelling in the area where the immunization was given.
- Your child may not want to use the arm or leg in which the needle was given as much as usual. This will go away in a few days.
- A small painless lump at the injection site may develop which may last up to a few weeks.
- Irritability and loss of appetite.
- Fever, approximately 6 to 24 hours after the injection, but lasting no longer than 24 hours.
- Serious side effects, such as high fever or seizures, which have been reported in children in rare cases following the immunization.

As fever may occur, make sure you have acetaminophen or ibuprofen at home. Follow the instructions that come with the product. These medications should not be taken if your child has certain medical conditions. Talk to your health care provider about your child's medical history before using either of these medications.

Call your health care provider if:

- The fever lasts longer than 24 hours.
- Your child has a temperature of 38.5°C (101.3°F) or greater.
- The fever does not come down after the acetaminophen or ibuprofen is taken.
- Your child has a seizure.
- Your child appears ill with other symptoms.

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hib or DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccination, please call your local Public Health office (see list of offices here: www.nshealth.ca/public-health-offices), or your health care provider.

For more information on immunization, please visit the websites of

- Nova Scotia Health, Public Health at <https://www.nshealth.ca/public-health/immunizations>
- Immunize Canada at immunize.ca/en/default.aspx
- the Public Health Agency of Canada at phac-aspc.gc.ca
- the Canadian Paediatric Society at cps.ca
- 811 at <https://811.novascotia.ca/>