

Important Information about **Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis and Polio** and Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis and Polio (Tdap-IPV) Vaccine

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY

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 DIPHTHERIA?

- Diphtheria is a very serious disease.
- It causes an infection of the nose and throat which can affect breathing.
- It may cause an infection of the skin.
- It may 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.
- It can cause severe coughing spells which can affect breathing. The disease usually lasts for 6 to 12 weeks.
- It can cause pneumonia.
- It may result in seizures, and even death in some cases.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is POLIO?

- Polio is a viral disease that may cause permanent crippling or paralysis.
- The paralysis can affect the muscles required for breathing.
- It has been eliminated in Canada through immunization.

What is Tdap-IPV Vaccine?

- Tdap-IPV is a single vaccine which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and polio.
- Immunization with Tdap-IPV vaccine is the best way to prevent these diseases.
- The vaccine is given by injection.

Who Should Receive Tdap-IPV Vaccine?

- One dose of Tdap-IPV is recommended for children at age 4 to 6 years, before starting school.

CAUTION

Who Should NOT Receive Tdap-IPV Vaccine?

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

Possible Side Effects from the Vaccine

Many children have no symptoms after immunization. However, some may experience the following:

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

Please read other side.

What to Expect Following Immunization with Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis and Polio (Tdap-IPV) Vaccine

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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.

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 you have certain medical conditions. Talk to your health care provider about your medical history before using either of these medications.

Contact 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 acetaminophen or ibuprofen is taken.
- Your child has a seizure.
- Your child appears ill with other symptoms.

QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions regarding tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, or Tdap-IPV vaccination, please call your local Public Health office, or your health care provider.

For more information on immunization, please visit the websites of

- 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/>