



# Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio and *Haemophilus* *Influenza* type B (DTaP-IPV-Hib)

## What is DTaP-IPV-Hib Vaccine?

The DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine is a safe and effective way to keep your child from getting very sick from the real disease. It is approved by Health Canada. The DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine (shot) is made with a tiny amount of dead germs. Vaccines help the immune system learn how to protect itself against the real disease.

## Are these diseases serious?

Diphtheria is caused by a toxin (poison) made by bacteria. It causes a thick coating in the back of the nose or throat that makes it hard to breathe or swallow. Up to one in 10 people who get diphtheria die from the illness.

Tetanus, also called "Lockjaw", is caused by a toxin made by bacteria. It causes painful muscle stiffness and difficulty breathing. Up to two in 10 people who get tetanus can die.

Pertussis is caused by bacteria and is often called "whooping cough". It causes coughing spells, which can last for months. It makes it hard for infants and children to eat, drink, or breathe. Up to one in 200 infants who get pertussis could die.

Polio is caused by a virus and will cause a sore throat, sudden fever, nausea, muscle weakness and pain. In severe cases, polio can also affect the spinal cord or

*The best way to protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, and haemophilus influenza type B is to get the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine. All infants and children should get the vaccine.*

brain, which can result in permanent paralysis, or even death.

*Haemophilus Influenza* type B, also called Hib disease, is a serious illness caused by bacteria. It can cause lifelong disability and death.

## How are these diseases spread?

Diphtheria, pertussis and *haemophilus influenza* type B disease can be spread from person to person by:

- Coughing,
- Sneezing, or
- Sharing food or drinks.

Diphtheria sometimes causes skin sores, and contact with these sores can also spread infection.

Tetanus does not spread from person to person. Tetanus spores can be found everywhere since they live in dirt, dust, and feces.



## Why should your child get the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

Immunization is the best way to protect your child against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and *haemophilus influenza* type B disease.

When your child is immunized you also help protect others. Someone who is vaccinated is less likely to spread infection.

When there is a cut or burn on the skin, spores can get into the body and cause infection.

Polio is spread through contact with feces from an infected person. Your child could be exposed through contaminated water, food or hands.

### What are possible reactions to the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

Vaccines, like any medicine, can have side effects. Most children who get the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine do not have any reactions.

Possible signs of reaction to the vaccine include:

- Soreness,
- Redness, and
- Swelling where the vaccine was given.

Other signs include:

- Fever,
- Drowsiness,
- Irritability, and
- Loss of appetite or an upset stomach.

These are mild reactions and usually last one to two days.

Acetaminophen (Tylenol® and Tempra®) can be given for fever or soreness.

ASA (Aspirin®) should **NEVER** be given to children because it can cause a severe liver and brain disease called Reye's Syndrome.

**It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is a rare possibility of a severe allergic reaction. This can include: **hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips.****

If this happens after you leave the clinic, call or go to the nearest Emergency Department or your local health centre for immediate treatment.

Report any serious or unexpected side-effects to your public health nurse.

### Who should NOT get the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

Speak to your health care provider.

### Who should get the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

DTaP-IPV-Hib is given as a series of 4 shots to infants and children according to the following schedule:

Vaccine	Age							
	Birth	1 mos.	2 mos.	4 mos.	6 mos.	1 year	18 mos.	
DTaP-IPV-Hib			✓	✓	✓			✓

To find out more about the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine contact your local health centre to speak to your public health nurse or visit the following links:

- NWT Immunization Schedule: <http://www.hss.gov.nt.ca>
- Immunize Canada: <https://immunize.ca>
- To keep track of your family's immunizations on your smart phone or tablet and to receive vaccine schedule reminders please download the CANIImmunize App at: <https://www.canimmunize.ca>

Your local health care centre is located at the address below.

Place Health Centre  
contact information  
here.