



Rotavirus What is the Rot vaccine?

The Rot 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 Rot vaccine is made with a tiny amount of weakened germs that do not cause disease. Vaccines help the immune system learn how to protect itself against the real disease.

Is Rotavirus serious?

Rotavirus, sometimes called the “stomach flu,” can cause:

- Severe watery diarrhea,
- Vomiting,
- Fever, and
- Stomach pain.

Both the diarrhea and vomiting can last for 3 to 8 days, which can lead to serious dehydration (loss of body fluid). Dehydration is especially dangerous for babies and young children and can be deadly if it is not treated.

How is it spread?

Rotavirus is in the stool of people who are infected with the virus. It is easily spread by hand-to-mouth from contact with stools of an infected child, such as:

- Through the handling of diapers,
- Toys,
- Changing tables, and
- Doorknobs.

The best way to protect against rotavirus infection in infants is to the Rot vaccine. All infants should get this vaccine before 8 months of age.

Any object that can come into contact with a small amount of stool can become infected with rotavirus.

Rotavirus is a tough virus. It can live on objects for several days and can be spread by children before and after they develop symptoms.

It is hard to prevent rotavirus infection even with proper hand washing and disinfectant.

What are possible reactions to the Rot vaccine?

Vaccines, like any medicine, can have side effects. Most babies who get the Rot vaccine do not have any reactions.

Possible signs of reaction to the vaccine include:

- Mild diarrhea,
- Irritability,
- Stomach pain,
- Flatulence (gas),
- Itchy rash, and
- Vomiting.

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



Why should your baby get the Rot vaccine?

Immunization is the best way to protect your baby against rotavirus.

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

Babies and children who have become infected once can become infected again.

There is a very low risk of intussusception (blockage of the intestine) that can occur in the week after the first dose of rotavirus vaccine.

Signs of intussusception include:

- Swollen abdomen/tummy
- Frequent vomiting
- Blood in the stools
- Severe crying and irritability

If your baby has any of these signs, report it immediately to the nurse at your health center or go to the emergency department.

Who should NOT get the Rot vaccine?

Speak to your health care provider.

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 get the Rot vaccine?

Rot is given by mouth. Depending on which Rot vaccine is available at the time of your child's vaccination appointment, Rot is given as a series of 2 or 3 doses according to the following schedule:

SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN (17 or under)							
Vaccine	Age						
	Birth	1 mos.	2 mos.	4 mos.	6 mos.	1 year	27 years
Rot-1*			✓	✓			
Rot-5*			✓	✓	✓		

* This vaccine cannot be given after 8 months of age.

To find out more about the Rot 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 CANImmunize App at: <https://www.canimmunize.ca>

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

Place Health Centre
contact information
here.