



Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, and Polio (DTaP-IPV)

What is DTaP-IPV Vaccine?

The DTaP-IPV 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 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 brain, which can result in permanent paralysis, or even death.

The best way to continue to protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and polio is to get the DTaP-IPV vaccine. Children aged 4 to 6 years old should get this vaccine to boost the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine received as an infant.

How are these diseases spread?

Diphtheria and pertussis 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.

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



Why should your child get the DTaP-IPV vaccine?

Immunization is the best way to protect your child against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio disease.

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

What are possible reactions to the DTaP-IPV vaccine?

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

Possible signs of reactions 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.

Who should NOT get the DTaP-IPV 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.

Who should get the DTaP-IPV vaccine?

DTaP-IPV is given as a booster dose to children who have already received the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine according to the following schedule:

SCHEDULE FOR CHILDREN (17 or under)							
Vaccine	Age						
	Birth	1 year	2 years	3 years	4-6 years	7-12 years	13-17 years
DTaP-IPV					✓		

To find out more about the DTaP-IPV 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.

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.

Place Health Centre
contact information
here.

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