

Communicable Diseases

Polio Vaccine (IPV)

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Vaccines (also called “needles” or “baby shots”) are the best way to protect against some very serious infections. The Canadian Paediatric Society and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization strongly recommend routine immunization.

The law requires vaccination against polio for all children attending daycare or school in Ontario (unless exempted).

What is Polio?

Polio is a dangerous disease that people can get from drinking water or eating food with the polio germ in it. It can also be spread from person to person. This disease can cause nerve damage and paralyze a person for life. It can paralyze muscles used for breathing, talking, eating, and walking. It can also cause death.

Who should receive Polio vaccine?

Anyone who has not completed the routine polio series recommended for their age, who are 7 years old or older. Also, anyone who requires a booster dose for special reasons (military, people working in a refugee camp or travel to a country where Polio protection is necessary.)

Is the Polio vaccine safe?

Yes. Serious side effects are rare. Mild pain, swelling and redness for a few days are common at the spot where the needle was given. Some people get a fever, lose their appetite or are drowsy for a day or two after the vaccination.

Call your family health care provider or local hospital if you or your child has any of the following within three days of getting the needle:

- high fever (over 40°C or 104°F)
- crying for more than three hours
- convulsions or seizures

- very pale colour and serious drowsiness
- hives (itchy rash)
- swelling of the face or mouth
- trouble breathing
- other serious problems

Who should not get the Polio vaccine?

Your family health care provider may decide not to give your child’s needle or may give a different vaccine if your child has:

- a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold
- had an allergic reaction to a previous dose of vaccine that contained Polio
- a severe allergy to any parts of the vaccine such as: polysorbate, formaldehyde, 2-phenoxyethanol, bovine serum, polymyxin, neomycin, streptomycin
- Pregnant women should consult their family health care provider to discuss the immediate risk.

Whom should I talk to if I have any more questions about the Polio vaccine?

Talk to your family health care provider or the Huron County Health Unit for more information.

Your Record of Protection

After your child receives any immunization, make sure the doctor updates the yellow personal Immunization Record card. Keep it in a safe place!