

DTaP-IPV-Hib Vaccine

Get protected, get immunized.

- Vaccines make your immune system stronger. They build antibodies to help prevent diseases.
- Immunization is safe. It is much safer to get immunized than to get these diseases.

What is the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

This vaccine gets its name from the diseases it protects against: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib).

What is diphtheria?

Diphtheria is a nose and throat infection caused by bacteria. It spreads by coughing, sneezing, or having close contact with an infected person. It can cause trouble breathing or swallowing, heart failure, and paralysis (not being able to move all or part of your body).

Up to 1 out of 10 people who get diphtheria will die. In children under 5 years and adults older than 40 years, 2 to 4 out of 10 people who get diphtheria can die.

What is tetanus?

Tetanus is a bacterial infection that causes uncontrolled movements (spasms) in the muscles of the jaw and other muscles of the body. Tetanus bacteria are common in dirt, dust, manure (animal stool used as fertilizer), and human stool. They can get into the body through a cut on the skin or an animal bite.

Tetanus can cause:

- “lock jaw” where the mouth stays closed and cannot open widely
- trouble swallowing and breathing, seizures, and death

About 1 to 8 out of 10 people who get tetanus and are not immunized can die. Babies and older adults are most at risk.

Tetanus infection is rare because there has been a vaccine since the 1940s. Most people have been immunized against it.

What is pertussis?

Pertussis is an infection of the airways and lungs caused by bacteria. It spreads by coughing, sneezing, or having contact with someone who is infected. Pertussis can cause:

- a cough that can last for several weeks to months, sometimes ending with choking or vomiting
- problems with eating, drinking, and breathing (especially for babies)
- pneumonia (a type of lung infection)

In rare cases, pertussis can lead to seizures, brain injury, and death.

What is polio?

Polio is an infection of the nervous system (brain, spinal cord, and nerves) caused by a virus. Most people do not have symptoms but can still spread the disease.

Polio can:

- lead to paralysis and death
- spread through infected stool (poop) by getting onto hands or into food and water, and then into your mouth

What is *Haemophilus influenzae* type b?

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) is a bacteria that can cause meningitis, which is a serious infection of the fluid and lining of the brain and spinal cord, blood, and other parts of the body.

Hib is spread by coughing or sneezing. It can lead to lifelong disabilities and death.

Who should get the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

As part of the routine immunization schedule, this vaccine is given to children born before March 1, 2018 who are under age 7 years, as part of their primary series and to all children age 18 months as a booster dose.

Older children and adults may need to get this vaccine again after a stem cell transplant.

How many doses do I need?

The number of doses you need depends on your age and why you are having the vaccine. Children usually need 3 doses (the primary series) followed by booster doses of this vaccine or ones like it. Ask your healthcare provider how many doses you need.

To keep you protected, you will get booster doses with other vaccines that protect against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis when you are a teen and when you are an adult.

Are there other vaccines that protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, and Hib?

DTaP-IPV-Hib-HB protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) and hepatitis B. As part of the routine immunization schedule, babies get this vaccine starting at age 2 months.

How well does the vaccine work?

After the primary series of the DTap-IPV-Hib vaccine and a booster dose, the protection is:

- almost 100% for diphtheria, tetanus, and polio
- around 90% for pertussis
- over 95% for Hib

It is important to get booster doses because protection may weaken over time.

Where can I get the DTap-IPV-Hib vaccine?

You can get the vaccine at your local public health or community health centre.

Are there side effects from the DTap-IPV-Hib vaccine?

There can be side effects from the DTap-IPV-Hib vaccine, but they tend to be mild and go away in a few days. Side effects may include:

- redness, swelling, a hard spot, or feeling sore where you had the needle
- crying, feeling tired, or getting upset easily
- a fever
- not feeling hungry or not wanting to eat (poor appetite)
- vomiting (throwing up) or loose stool (diarrhea)

At least 1 out of 100 people who got this vaccine reported 1 or more of these side effects. In some cases, it is unknown if the vaccine caused these side effects.

It is important to stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after your vaccine. Some people may have a rare but serious allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. If anaphylaxis happens, you will get medicine to treat the symptoms.

It is rare to have a serious side effect after a vaccine. Call Health Link at 811 to report any serious or unusual side effects.

How can I manage side effects?

- To help with soreness and swelling, put a cool, wet cloth over the area where you had the needle.
- There is medicine to help with a fever or pain. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure what medicine or dose to take. Follow the directions on the package.
- Some people with health problems, such as a weak immune system, must call their doctor if they get a fever. If you have been told to do this, call your doctor even if you think the fever is from the vaccine.

Who should not get DTap-IPV-Hib vaccine?

You may not be able to get this vaccine if:

- You have an allergy to any part of the vaccine.
- You had a severe (serious) or unusual side effect after this vaccine or one like it.

If you have allergies or have had a side effect, check with your doctor or a public health nurse before you get the vaccine.

Although you can get the vaccine if you have a mild illness such as a cold or fever, you should stay home until you are feeling better to prevent spreading your illness to others.

I have a fear of needles. How can I prepare for my immunization?

Many adults and children are afraid of needles. You can do many things before, during, and after immunization to be more comfortable.



Scan the QR code, visit ahs.ca/vaccinecomfort, or call Health Link at 811 for information.

For more information about immunization



Call Health Link at **811**



Scan the QR code or go to ahs.ca/immunize