

Injection Sites for Routine Immunizations

For Parents or Guardians who Wish to Use Anaesthetic Creams, Gels, or Patches for their infant or Preschool Age Children

If you wish to use an anaesthetic cream, gel, or patch (medicine that numbs the skin) for routine immunizations, talk to your pharmacist and bring this handout with you. The pharmacist can help choose the right product for your child, show you how to use it safely, and talk about possible side effects. You will need to put on the anesthetic cream, gel, or patch on your child before coming to the immunization appointment. If you remove the cream, gel, or patch before you see the nurse, use a pen to draw a circle around the area that was numbed.

This chart shows the usual injection sites used by public health nurses in Alberta to help you and the pharmacist know where the numbing medicine will need to be put. However, be aware that there is a chance that injection sites may change when the nurse sees your child.

More vaccines may be needed if your child has a medical condition or is 1 or more visits behind schedule, such as a 6 month old who has not had 4 month immunizations. Talk to a public health nurse before the appointment to find out where vaccines will need to be given.

Routine Visit	Number of Injections	Usual Injection Sites (Shown by shaded area in Diagrams A, B & C on Page 2)
2 month visit	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both legs as shown in Diagram A
4 month visit	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both legs as shown in Diagram A (Two injections will go in one leg and 1 into the other)
6 month visit	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One leg as shown in Diagram A
12 month visit	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Both arms as shown in Diagram B• One arm as shown in Diagram C (Two injections will go in one arm and 1 into the other)
18 month visit	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One arm as shown in Diagram B• Other arm as shown in Diagram C
4 to 6 year preschool visit	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One arm as shown in Diagram B (If your child has not had their second dose of MMR-Var vaccine, a second injection will go in the other arm as shown in Diagram C)
Influenza vaccine	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If 6 months to under 1 year of age: injection will go in the leg as shown in Diagram A. Your child will get injections in both legs if having more than 1 vaccine at the appointment.• If 1 year of age or older: the injection will go in the arm as shown in Diagram B. The child will get injections in both arms if having more than 1 vaccine at the appointment.

DIAGRAM A
Upper, Outer Thigh
Muscle (Vastus Lateralis)



DIAGRAM B
Shoulder Muscle (Deltoid)

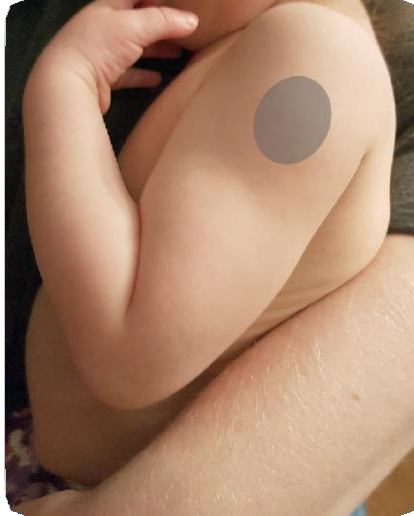
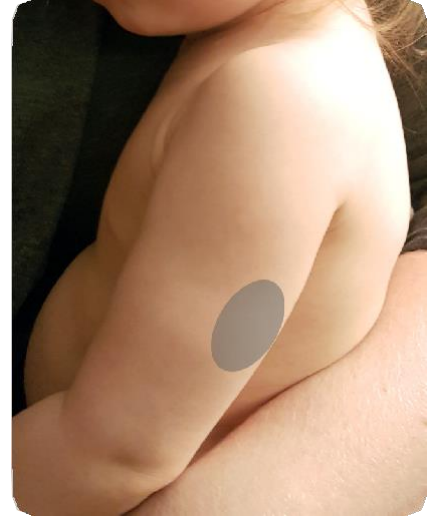


DIAGRAM C
Between Skin and Muscle
of Upper Arm
(Subcutaneous)



Check with a pharmacist or public health nurse if you are unsure where to put the anesthetic cream, gel, or patch. The nurse can only use the area that was numbed if the anesthetic cream, gel, or patch was in the right place.

For More Information



Call Health Link at **811**



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