



Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio and Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccines (DTaP-IPV-Hib) vaccine

- DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine is a combined vaccine that protects children against five diseases — diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and serious diseases like meningitis caused by haemophilus influenzae type b. The vaccine is given at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 18 months

What does this protect against?

Diphtheria is a bacteria that causes a serious disease of the nose, throat, and skin. It causes sore throat, fever, and chills. It can be complicated by breathing problems, heart failure, and nerve damage, which can cause paralysis. It kills about one out of every ten people who get the disease. It is most often passed to others through coughing or sneezing.

Tetanus or “lockjaw” is a serious disease that can happen when dirt with the tetanus germ gets into an opening in the skin. Tetanus bacteria are found everywhere, especially in soil, dust, and manure. It cannot spread from person to person. It causes cramping of the muscles in the neck, arms, legs, and stomach and causes painful convulsions that are strong enough to break bones. Even with early treatment tetanus kills two out of every ten people who get it.

Pertussis or “whooping cough” is caused by a bacteria, and can cause serious respiratory disease, especially in children. Children who get this disease experience violent coughing spells, which can cause them to vomit or stop breathing. The cough can last for weeks and make it hard for children to eat, drink, or even breathe. It can have severe complications including pneumonia, brain damage, seizures, and death. These severe problems most often happen in babies. Pertussis spreads easily from person to person through droplets when someone coughs or sneezes.

Polio is a serious disease caused by a virus that people can get from drinking contaminated water or eating food with the virus in it. It can be spread from person to person. Polio can cause nerve damage and can paralyze a person for life. It can paralyze muscles for breathing, talking, eating, and walking. It can also cause death.

Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) is a bacteria that causes numerous serious infections. One example is epiglottitis which is a swelling of the throat near the voice box. Swelling in this area makes it difficult to breathe. Hib was also the most common cause of meningitis in children two months to five years of age before the vaccine was introduced. Children under the age of five are most likely to experience Hib disease. Attending child care centers increases a child’s risk of acquiring it.

Who can receive this vaccine?

Infants and young children receive this vaccine at 2, 4, 6, and 18 months of age.

Is the vaccine safe?

The vaccine is safe and has been used in Canada for many years. It may cause minor side effects such as redness, warmth, or slight swelling where you received the needle. Some may experience tiredness or a slight fever for a day or two. Any other serious reactions such as trouble breathing, swelling of the face or mouth, a fever over 39°C, hives or rashes are very rare.

You should not receive the vaccine if you have a significant fever or are experiencing an illness more serious than a minor cold or if you have ever had an allergic reaction to a component of the vaccine. Speak with your healthcare provider about this.

*** Vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and polio is required by law for all children attending licensed childcare centers and schools in Ontario.***



For any questions, contact Grey Bruce Public Health: 519-376-9420, press '2' or 1-800-263-3456, press '2'
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