

Important Information about **Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus and Polio** and Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis, Tetanus and Polio (DaPTP) Vaccine

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY

What is DIPHThERIA?

- It is a very serious disease.
- It causes an infection of the nose and throat which can affect breathing.
- It may cause an infection of the skin.
- It may cause heart failure or paralysis.
- About one person out of every ten who get diphtheria dies.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is PERTUSSIS?

- It is also called whooping cough.
- It may cause severe coughing spells which can affect the breathing and lasts for weeks or months.
- It can cause pneumonia.
- It may result in convulsions, and even death in some cases.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is TETANUS?

- It is also called lockjaw.
- It is a disease that occurs when cuts or wounds are infected with tetanus bacteria.
- The bacteria, which are often found in dirt, make a poison that causes the muscles of the body to go into spasm.
- It can be a life-threatening disease.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is POLIO?

- It is a viral disease that may cause permanent crippling or paralysis.
- The paralysis can affect the muscles required for breathing.
- It has been eliminated in Canada through immunization.

What is DaPTP Vaccine?

- Immunization with DaPTP vaccine is the best way to prevent these diseases.
- DaPTP vaccine is four vaccines combined into one.
- The vaccine is given by injection.

Who Should Receive DaPTP Vaccine?

- One dose of DaPTP is recommended for children at age 4 to 6 years.

CAUTION

SOME PEOPLE SHOULD CHECK WITH A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER BEFORE THEY RECEIVE THIS VACCINE.

- People taking high doses of oral steroids or undergoing treatment for cancer.
- People who have problems with their immune system which lowers the body's resistance to infection.

Who Should NOT Receive DaPTP Vaccine?

- People who have had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of DaPTP vaccine.

Possible Side Effects from the Vaccine

Many children have no symptoms after immunization. However, some may experience:

- Soreness, redness or tenderness in the area where the immunization was given. Your child may not want to use the arm or leg in which the needle was given as much as usual. This will go away in a few days.
- Irritability and loss of appetite may also occur.
- A small painless lump at the injection site may develop which may last up to a few weeks.
- Fever, approximately 6 to 24 hours after the injection, but lasting no longer than 24 hours may occur if acetaminophen or ibuprofen is not given.
- More serious side effects such as high fever or convulsions have been reported on rare occasions in children after receiving the immunization.

Please read other side.

What to Expect Following Immunization with Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis, Tetanus and Polio (DaPTP) Vaccine

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People should stay in the clinic for at least 15 minutes after receiving any type of immunization to monitor possible reaction. As with any vaccine there is a slight possibility that a more serious reaction could occur.

As fever may occur, make sure you have acetaminophen or ibuprofen at home. Follow the instructions that come with the product. These medications should not be taken if you have certain medical conditions. Talk to your health care provider about your medical history before using either of these medications.

Fever Management

Acetaminophen or ibuprofen will reduce the chance of having fever and local reactions after receiving the Pertussis component of the DaPTP Vaccine. You may wish to give your child acetaminophen or ibuprofen according to correct dosage at the time of the vaccine, 4 hours and 8 hours later.

A fever is not necessarily bad, but may make your child uncomfortable. If you think your child has a fever:

- Take your child's temperature.
- If temperature is over 38.5°C (101°F) you may give your child an antipyretic medicine that will help control the fever; such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen.
- You may wish to ask your health care provider which form of medicine is best for your child according to age, weight and how to give the medicine to your child.

- Give the correct dose for your child's age (or weight if less than 2 years of age) every 4 to 6 hours and NOT more often.
- Encourage extra fluids of breast milk, formula and/or water.

Call Your Health Care Provider If:

- The fever lasts longer than 24 hours.
- Your child has a temperature of 39.5°C (103°F) or greater.
- The fever does not come down after the acetaminophen or ibuprofen is given.
- Your child has a convulsion.
- Your child appears ill with other symptoms.

If you have any questions, please call your health care provider or Public Health Nurse.

NOTE:

Acetaminophen and ibuprofen come in 3 forms for young children:

- Drops – which MUST be given with the dropper provided with the brand of medicine.
- Liquid – given using a teaspoon or a 5ml measure.
- Chewable tablet – can be given to children old enough to chew and swallow food when asked.

QUESTIONS:

If you have any questions regarding diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), tetanus, polio, or DaPTP vaccination, please call your local Public Health Services office, or your health care provider.

For more information on immunization, please visit the websites of

- the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness at www.immunize.cpha.ca
- the Public Health Agency of Canada at www.phac-aspc.gc.ca
- the Canadian Pediatric Society at www.cps.ca