

Important Information about **Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio** and **Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib) Diseases** and Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio and Hib (DaPTP+Hib) Vaccine

PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY

What is DIPHtherIA?

- Diphtheria is a very serious disease.
- It is an illness caused by bacteria.
- It can cause an infection of the nose, throat or skin.
- It can cause serious problems with breathing.
- It can cause heart failure or paralysis.
- About one person out of every ten who get diphtheria dies.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is PERTUSSIS?

- Pertussis is also called whooping cough and is caused by bacteria.
- It may cause severe coughing spells which can affect breathing and last for weeks or months. Usually the disease lasts 6 to 12 weeks.
- It can cause pneumonia.
- It may result in convulsions and even death in some cases.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is TETANUS?

- Tetanus 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?

- Polio is a crippling disease caused by a virus.
- It may cause permanent paralysis of arms and legs or muscles required for breathing.
- It can be a life-threatening disease.
- It has been eliminated in Canada through immunization.

What is HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE TYPE b DISEASE?

- It is a bacterial infection which usually attacks children under the age of five. It is also called Hib.
- It is the major cause of meningitis and epiglottitis in children under age five.
- Meningitis is an infection of the membranes that cover the brain and spine.
- Epiglottitis is a swelling of the tissue that covers the windpipe. It may cause serious problems with breathing if not treated.
- It is a life-threatening disease in children. If it does not kill, it can leave children permanently paralysed.
- Haemophilus B infection may also cause pneumonia, infective arthritis, an infection of the bone called osteomyelitis and other serious infections.
- Is preventable through immunization.

What is DaPTP+Hib Vaccine?

- DaPTP+Hib is five vaccines in one. The one shot protects the child from diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and Haemophilus Influenzae type b.
- The vaccine is given by injection.

Who Should Receive DaPTP+Hib Vaccine?

- The Nova Scotia schedule recommends that this vaccine be given at age 2, 4, 6, and 18 months.
- A booster shot 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+Hib Vaccine?

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

Please read other side.

What to Expect Following Immunization with **Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio** and **Haemophilus Influenzae type b (DaPTP+Hib) 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.

Possible Side Effects from the Vaccine

Many children have no side effects 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.
- A small painless lump at the injection site may develop which may last up to a few weeks.
- Irritability and loss of appetite may also occur.
- 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 a high fever or convulsions have been reported on rare occasions in children after receiving the immunization.

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+Hib vaccine. You may wish to give your child acetaminophen or ibuprofen at the time that the vaccine is given. You can give acetaminophen or ibuprofen again 4 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, and 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—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.

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, tetanus, polio, Hib or DaPTP+Hib 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