

Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Polio (Tdap-IPV) Vaccine

Public Health - Factsheet

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other medical intervention.¹ Vaccines help your immune system to recognize and fight bacteria and viruses that cause disease.

What are tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio?

These diseases can cause serious complications and death.

Tetanus (or lockjaw): Tetanus is caused by bacteria that can cause painful tightening and stiffening of muscles (spasms) usually all over the body including muscles in the head and neck and may prevent chewing or swallowing and breathing problems. Tetanus infections can be very serious and often deadly if the breathing muscles are affected. Tetanus does not spread from person to person. Tetanus spores live in dirt, dust and manure and can get into the body through an open cut or burn on the skin. Symptoms may begin to appear 7-10 days after infection.

Diphtheria: Diphtheria is caused by bacteria that can make a thick covering (membrane) in the back of the nose and throat, which can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure, and even death. Diphtheria can be spread from person to person by coughing, sneezing, or sharing of food or drinks. Diphtheria sometimes causes skin sores, and contact with these sores can also spread infection. Symptoms may begin to appear 2-5 days after infection.

Pertussis (whooping cough): Pertussis is caused by bacteria that results in long coughing spells that makes it hard for infants and children to eat, drink, or even breathe. It also can result in pneumonia, brain damage, seizures and death, especially in infants. Pertussis can easily spread by coughing or sneezing or face-to-face-contact. Symptoms may begin to appear 7-10 days after infection.

Polio: Is caused by a virus that can cause a sore throat, sudden fever, nausea, muscle weakness and pain. In more severe cases, polio can also affect the spinal cord or brain, which can result in permanent paralysis or may result in death. Symptoms may begin to appear 7-21 days after infection.

What is Tdap-IPV vaccine?

Tdap-IPV vaccine is approved by Health Canada and provides protection against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and polio diseases. This vaccine gets administered by needle.

In order to be fully protected against these diseases multiple doses may be required over a period of time.

Why should I get the Tdap-IPV vaccine?

Immunization is the best way to protect you or your child(ren) against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio that can often be serious and sometimes fatal.

Vaccines help prepare your body to fight potential future exposure to the virus/bacteria by getting your immune system ready.

The vaccine helps to protect you, your family, and other people in your community.

As protection from the vaccine can lessen over time it is important to follow Manitoba's Immunization Schedule.

Possible side-effects of Tdap-IPV vaccine

It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio. Health Canada approves vaccines based on a review of quality and safety.

Common reactions to the vaccine include pain, soreness, redness or swelling where the vaccine was given. Other symptoms are fever, headache, and tiredness. Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) can be given for fever or soreness.

ASA (Aspirin®) should NEVER be given to children because it can cause a severe liver and brain disease called Reye's Syndrome.

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It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is a rare possibility of a severe allergic reaction. This can include hives, difficulty breathing or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. Calls 911 or go to the nearest emergency department for immediate attention should any reaction occur after leaving the clinic.

Report any serious or unexpected side-effects to a public health nurse, pharmacist or doctor.

Who should get the Tdap-IPV vaccine?

The Tdap-IPV vaccine is provided free of charge when part of Manitoba's Immunization Program.

Children in Manitoba should get immunized against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio as part of Manitoba's infant routine immunization schedule. The Tdap-IPV vaccine is offered as a booster dose to children 4-6 years of age when they are starting school.

For children between 7 and 18 years of age who did not receive their primary immunizations against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio should get up to three doses of Tdap-IPV vaccine depending on their immune status and age. Protection against the four diseases can be given through this combined product or separate Tdap and IPV injections.

Who should NOT get Tdap-IPV vaccine?

Talk to your health care provider if:

- You or your child(ren) have had a severe allergic reaction after receiving a previous dose of the Tdap-IPV vaccine or to any of the contents of the vaccine.
- There is a history of *Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS)* within 6 weeks of the administration of a previous tetanus-containing vaccine.

Tdap-IPV vaccine is not to be used for primary immunization series in children under the age of 7 years. Discuss with your immunization provider what vaccine should be provided to complete the primary series.

Anyone with a high fever should not be immunized. The vaccine can still be given if you have a mild illness, like a cold.

Your record of protection

Make sure your immunization provider updates your immunization record card or that of your child(ren), after you receive an immunization. Keep the card in a safe place!

Your immunizations or those of your child(ren) will be recorded in Manitoba's immunization registry. This registry:

- allows the health care provider to find out which immunizations you or your child(ren) have had or need to have;
- may be used to produce immunization records, or notify you or your health care provider if a particular immunization has been missed;
- allows Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living and public health officials to monitor how well vaccines work in preventing disease.

If you need information on the immunizations that you or your child(ren) have received, contact your immunization provider.

The Personal Health Information Act protects your information and/or that of your child(ren). You can have your personal health information and/or that of your child(ren) hidden from view from health care providers. For additional information, please contact your local public health office to speak with a public health nurse.

For a listing of public health offices please visit: <http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/offices.html>.

For more information on the Tdap-IPV vaccine:

Talk to your immunization provider

Or call: Health Links-Info Santé in Winnipeg at 204-788-8200; toll-free elsewhere in Manitoba 1-888-315-9257

Or visit:

Manitoba's Immunization Program website

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/div/index.html>

Government of Canada website

<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/healthy-living-vie-saine/immunization-immunisation/index-eng.php>

¹ Public Health Agency. Canadian Immunization Guide <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/p01-02-eng.php>