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Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, polio (Tdap-IPV) vaccine

Keep your child safe.

Get all vaccines on time.

By getting all the vaccines on time, your child can be protected from many diseases over a lifetime.

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other health measure.

What is the Tdap-IPV vaccine?

The Tdap-IPV vaccine protects against 4 diseases:

- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis (whooping cough)
- Polio

The vaccine is approved by Health Canada and is provided free as part of your child's routine immunizations. Call your health care provider to make an appointment.

Who should get the vaccine?

Children get one dose of the vaccine at 4 to 6 years of age. This is a booster dose for children who were immunized against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio at a younger age. The booster dose strengthens or boosts the immune system to give better protection against these diseases.

Older children and adults who need protection against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio can also get the vaccine for free.

For more information visit the following HealthLinkBC Files:

- HealthLinkBC File #105 Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis b, polio, and Haemophilus influenzae type b (DTaP-HB-IPV-Hib) vaccine
- HealthLinkBC File #15b Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b (DTaP-IPV-Hib) vaccine

It is important to keep a record of all immunizations received.

What are the benefits of the vaccine?

The Tdap-IPV vaccine is the best way to get protected against four serious and sometimes fatal diseases.

When you get your child immunized, you help protect others as well.

What are the possible reactions after the vaccine?

Vaccines are very safe. It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get one of the diseases.

Common reactions to the vaccine may include soreness, redness and swelling where the vaccine was given. Large areas of redness and swelling may be present, but these generally do not interfere with normal activity. Fever, chills, headache and fatigue may also occur. These reactions are mild and generally last 1 to 2 days.

Acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (e.g. Advil®) can be given for fever or soreness. ASA (e.g. Aspirin®) should not be given to anyone under 18 years of age due to the risk of Reye syndrome.

For more information on Reye syndrome, visit HealthLinkBC File #84 Reye syndrome.

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine. There is an extremely rare possibility of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This happens in less than one in a million people who get the vaccine. Symptoms may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. If this reaction occurs, your health care provider is prepared to treat it. Emergency treatment

includes administration of epinephrine (adrenaline) and transport by ambulance to the nearest emergency department. If symptoms develop after you leave the clinic, call **9-1-1** or the local emergency number.

Always report serious or unexpected reactions to your health care provider.

Who should not get the vaccine?

Speak with your health care provider if you or your child has had a life-threatening reaction to a previous dose of a tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis or polio vaccine or any part of the vaccine. This includes neomycin, polymyxin B or streptomycin.

People who developed Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) within 8 weeks of getting a tetanus vaccine, without another cause being identified, should not get the Tdap-IPV vaccine. GBS is a rare condition that can result in weakness and paralysis of the body's muscles. It most commonly occurs after infections, but in rare cases can also occur after some vaccines.

The vaccine is not given to children under 4 years of age.

There is no need to delay getting immunized because of a cold or other mild illness. If you have concerns, speak with your health care provider.

What are tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and polio?

Tetanus, also known as lockjaw, is caused by bacteria mostly found in soil. When the bacteria enter the skin through a cut, scrape or wound, they produce a poison that can cause painful tightening of muscles all over the body. It is very serious if the breathing muscles are affected. Up to 1 in 5 people who get tetanus may die.

Diphtheria is a serious infection of the nose and throat caused by diphtheria bacteria. The bacteria are spread through the air by people sneezing or coughing or by direct skin-to-skin contact. The disease can result in very severe breathing problems. It can also cause heart failure and paralysis. About 1 in 10 people who get diphtheria may die.

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a serious infection of the airways caused by pertussis bacteria. The bacteria are easily spread by coughing, sneezing or close face-to-face contact. Pertussis can cause pneumonia, seizures, brain damage or death. These complications are seen most often in infants. Pertussis can cause severe coughing that often ends with a whooping sound before the next breath. This cough can last several months and occurs more often at night. About 1 in 170 infants who get pertussis may die. For more information about pertussis, visit HealthLinkBC File #15c Pertussis (whooping cough).

Polio is a disease caused by infection with poliovirus. While most poliovirus infections show no symptoms, others can result in paralysis of arms or legs and even death. Paralysis occurs in about 1 in 200 people who get infected. Polio can be spread by contact with the stool of an infected person. This can happen from eating food or drinking water contaminated with stool.

Tetanus, diphtheria and polio are now rare in B.C. because of routine childhood immunization programs. Whooping cough still occurs but is much less common than it used to be and is much milder in immunized people.

Mature minor consent

It is recommended that parents or guardians and their children discuss consent for immunization. Children under the age of 19, who are able to understand the benefits and possible reactions for each vaccine and the risk of not getting immunized, can legally consent to or refuse immunizations. For more information on mature minor consent visit HealthLinkBC File #119 The Infants Act, mature minor consent and immunization.

BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority