

# Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis & Polio (DTaP-IPV) Vaccine

## Public Health - Factsheet

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

### What are diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio?

These diseases can cause serious complications and death.

**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.

**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.

**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 DTaP-IPV vaccine?

DTaP-IPV vaccine is approved by Health Canada and provides protection against diphtheria, tetanus, 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 my child get the DTaP-IPV vaccine?

Immunization is the best way to protect your child(ren) against diphtheria, tetanus, 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.

Vaccines help 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 DTaP-IPV vaccine

It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio diseases. 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.

<sup>1</sup> Public Health Agency of Canada

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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.

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Report any serious or unexpected side-effects to a health care provider.

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## Who should get the DTaP-IPV vaccine?

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

Children in Manitoba should get immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio as part of Manitoba's infant routine immunization schedule.

The DTaP-IPV vaccine is offered to children 4-6 years of age who were not previously immunized as part of their infant routine immunization series. The number of doses needed depends on the age of first dose.

## Who should NOT get DTaP-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 DTaP-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.

DTaP-IPV should not be used for primary immunization in children under 4 years of age. Discuss with your immunization provider what vaccine should be provided to complete the primary series.

## Your record of protection

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

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

- allows the health care provider to find out which immunizations 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 your child(ren) have missed a particular immunization;
- 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 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 DTaP-IPV vaccine:

- Talk to your immunization provider
- 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:

<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>

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