



Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis, Polio and Infant Haemophilus type B (DTaP-IPV-Hib) Vaccine

Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis, Polio and Haemophilus influenzae type b (DTaP-IPV-Hib) is a combined vaccine that protects children against five diseases – diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and serious diseases like meningitis caused by the Hib (Haemophilus influenzae type b) germ. Vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus and polio is required by law for all children attending school in Ontario (unless exempted).

What is diphtheria?

Diphtheria is a serious disease of the nose, throat and skin. It causes sore throat, fever and chills. It can be complicated by breathing problems, heart failure and nerve damage. Diphtheria kills about 1 out of every 10 people who get the disease. It is most often passed to others through coughing and sneezing.

What is tetanus?

Tetanus or lockjaw is a serious disease that can happen if dirt with tetanus germs gets into a cut in the skin. Tetanus germs are found everywhere, usually in soil, dust and manure. Tetanus does not spread from person to person. It causes cramping of the muscles in the neck, arms, legs and stomach, and painful convulsions which can be severe enough to break bones. Tetanus kills 2 out of every 10 people who get it even with early treatment.

What is pertussis?

Pertussis or whooping cough is a serious disease especially in children. People who get this disease have spells of violent coughing. This cough can cause them to vomit or stop breathing for a short period of time. The cough can last for weeks and make it hard to eat, drink or even breathe. Pertussis can cause serious complications such as pneumonia, brain damage, seizures and death. These problems happen most often in babies. Pertussis spreads very easily from an infected person to others through coughing and sneezing.

What is polio?

Polio is a serious disease that people can get from drinking water or eating food with the polio germ in it. It can also be spread from person to person. This disease can cause nerve damage and paralyze a person for life. It can paralyze muscles used for breathing, talking, eating and walking. It can also cause death.

What is Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) disease?

Hib does not cause influenza. Before the vaccine was used, this germ was a common cause of serious infections in children. Hib was the most common cause of bacterial meningitis (infection of the fluid and lining that covers the brain and spinal cord) in children two months to five years of age. Meningitis can cause, brain damage, learning and developmental problems, deafness, blindness and death. The Hib germ can also cause infection of the lungs (pneumonia) and bone and joint infections. Children under five years are more likely to get Hib disease. The Hib germ spreads to others through coughing and sneezing.

At what age should my child be vaccinated with the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

Your child should have the first shot at two months of age. Three more shots are needed – at four months, six months and 18 months of age. If your child misses a shot, he/she should get it as soon as possible.

Is the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine safe?

Yes. Serious side effects are rare. Mild pain, swelling and redness for a few days are common at the spot where the needle was given. Some children get a fever or rash, lose their appetite or are fussy or drowsy for a day or two after the shot. You can give your child a medicine called acetaminophen to prevent pain and fever. There is no risk of a pregnant woman or anyone else catching any disease from a child who has been vaccinated recently. **You should always discuss the benefits and risks of any vaccine with your doctor/nurse practitioner or local health unit.**

When should I call my doctor/nurse practitioner?

Call your doctor/nurse practitioner or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if any of the following symptoms develop within 3 days of getting the shot:

- hives
- swelling of the face or mouth
- crying for more than 3 hours
- trouble breathing
- very pale colour and serious drowsiness
- high fever (over 40°C or 104°F)
- convulsions or seizures
- other serious problem

Who should not get the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

Children with the following conditions should not receive this shot:

- a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold – the vaccine should be delayed until the symptoms resolve
- a severe allergy to any part of the vaccine in the past (neomycin, streptomycin, polymyxin B, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, aluminum phosphate, 2-phenoxyethanol, polysorbate 80)
- a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine

Who should I talk to if I have any more questions about DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

Talk to your doctor/nurse practitioner or call Renfrew County and District Health Unit Health Info Line at 613-735-8666 or 1-800-267-1097 Ext. 666.

Your record of protection

After you get any immunization, make sure your personal immunization record (Yellow Card) is updated. Keep it in a safe place!

Renfrew County and District Health Unit

7 International Drive
Pembroke, Ontario K8A 6W5
613-735-8666 or 1-800-267-1097, Ext. 666.

Adapted from Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis, Polio and Infant Haemophilus type B (DTaP-IPV-Hib) Vaccine Fact Sheet (June 2009); Pediacel® Product Monograph (August 2011).

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