



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

Tdap-IPV is a four-in-one vaccine that protects against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio. It can be used in people 4 years of age and older. Vaccination against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio is required by law for all children attending school in Ontario (unless exempted).

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 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 pertussis?

Pertussis or whooping cough is a common disease that causes prolonged cough illness in children, adolescents and adults. Pertussis is particularly serious in infants. This cough can cause a person 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. Pertussis can also cause brain damage and seizures, especially in babies. Pertussis spreads very easily from an infected person to others through coughing or sneezing. Adults have been increasingly recognized as the main source for pertussis infection in infants and young children. Infected adults and adolescents can pass on the disease to infants not yet fully protected and who are at greater risk of complications from pertussis.

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. Although polio has been eradicated in the Americas, there is still a risk of catching this disease through travel or from cases that have been imported from abroad.

Who is eligible to receive publicly funded Tdap-IPV?

In Ontario, individuals who have received their primary series (i.e., four doses of vaccine) for the prevention of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio should receive Tdap-IPV vaccine as a booster dose at 4 – 6 years of age. Individuals 7 years of age and older who have not completed their primary series for the prevention of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and polio should receive up to three doses of Tdap-IPV vaccine, depending on age and immune status. Protection does not last forever and a tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) booster is recommended when one is 14 – 16 years old, and once in adulthood if not received in the teen years, to maintain protection against these three diseases. Tetanus and diphtheria (Td) boosters are recommended every 10 years for adults.

Who should not get the vaccine?

These include persons with:

- a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of a vaccine containing diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio

- a history of an allergic reaction to any part of the vaccine (aluminum phosphate, 2-phenoxyethanol, polysorbate 80, formaldehyde, glutaraldehyde, bovine serum albumin, streptomycin, neomycin and polymyxin B)
- a history of development of severe redness, swelling and ulceration at the injection site following a previous dose of tetanus/diphtheria-containing vaccine
- a history of encephalopathy (a disease of the brain) of undetermined cause within 7 days of having a pertussis-containing vaccine
- a history of Guillain-Barre' syndrome less than 8 weeks after a previous dose of tetanus-containing vaccine
- a history of progressive or unstable neurologic disorder

Please consult with your health care provider if you:

- have a severe infection with a fever higher than 38°C
- are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Is Tdap-IPV vaccine safe?

Yes. Side effects of Tdap-IPV vaccine are mild and usually last only a few days after getting the shot. Pain at the injection site is the most common side effect. Redness and swelling may also occur. A small number of people may have fever, vomiting, headache, diarrhea, nausea, chills, generalized body ache, decreased energy or sore and swollen joints after having a shot. Allergic reactions and other severe reactions after the shot are very rare. There is no risk of a pregnant woman or anyone else catching any disease from someone who has been recently immunized. Tdap-IPV is safe for people with medical conditions that impair the body's immune system. **You should always discuss the benefits and risks of any vaccine with your health care provider or local public 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
- trouble breathing
- very pale colour and serious drowsiness
- high fever (over 40°C or 104°F)
- convulsions or seizures
- other serious problems

Who should I talk to if I have any more questions about Tdap-IPV 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 Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis and Polio (Tdap-IPV) Vaccine Fact Sheet (May 2012).

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