

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

**Keep your child safe.  
Get all shots on time.**

By getting all shots 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 DTaP-IPV vaccine?

The DTaP-IPV vaccine protects against four diseases:

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

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

### Who should get the DTaP-IPV vaccine?

The vaccine is given as one dose or shot when a child starts school, usually at 4 to 6 years of age.

This is a booster dose for children who have already been immunized against these diseases at a younger age. For more information see BC HealthFile [#15b Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae Type b \(DTaP-IPV-Hib\) Vaccine](#). The booster dose strengthens or boosts the immune system to give better protection against these diseases.

DTaP-IPV Vaccine	Child's Age at Vaccination
Booster dose	4 to 6 years

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

### Benefits of DTaP-IPV Vaccine

The DTaP-IPV vaccine is the best way to protect your child against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and polio, which are serious and sometimes fatal diseases.

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

### Possible Reactions after the Vaccine

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

Common reactions to the vaccine include soreness, redness and swelling where the shot was given. Some may be irritable, listless or experience a fever or loss of appetite. These reactions are mild and generally last 1 to 2 days.

Acetaminophen or Tylenol® can be given for fever or soreness. ASA or Aspirin® should NOT be given to anyone under 20 years of age due to the risk of Reye Syndrome.

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is an extremely rare possibility of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis.

This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. If this happens after you leave the clinic, call 911 or the local emergency number. This reaction can be treated, and occurs in less than one in a million people who get the vaccine.

**Report serious or unexpected reactions to your public health nurse or doctor.**

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

Speak with a public health nurse or doctor if your child has had a life-threatening reaction to a previous dose of diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, or polio vaccine, or any component of the vaccine, including neomycin or polymyxin B. The vaccine is not given to people 7 years of age and older.

People who developed Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) within 8 weeks of getting tetanus vaccine should not get the DTaP-IPV vaccine. GBS is a rare condition that can result in weakness and paralysis of the body's muscles.

### What are Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, and Polio?

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

**Pertussis**, or “whooping cough”, is a serious infection of the lungs and throat. About 1 in 200 people who get pertussis will die. Pertussis can cause pneumonia, convulsions, brain damage or death. These complications are seen most often in infants. The germ (bacteria) is easily spread by coughing, sneezing or close face-to-face contact. 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.

**Tetanus**, also called “lockjaw”, is caused by a germ (bacteria) mostly found in the soil. When the bacteria enter the skin through a cut or scrape, 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 2 in 10 people who get tetanus will die.

**Polio** is a disease caused by infection with a virus. While some polio infections show no symptoms, others can result in paralysis of arms or legs and even death. Polio can be spread by contact with the bowel movements (stool) of an infected person. This can happen from eating food or drinking water contaminated with stool.

Three of these diseases are now rare in BC because of routine childhood vaccination programs. Whooping cough still occurs but is far less common than it used to be, and in immunized people is much milder.

For more BC HealthFile topics visit [www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles/index.stm](http://www.bchealthguide.org/healthfiles/index.stm), or visit your local public health unit.

Call the BC NurseLine to speak to a registered nurse, available 24-hours every day:

- In Greater Vancouver, call 604-215-4700
- In BC, call toll-free 1-866-215-4700
- Deaf and hearing-impaired, call 1-866-889-4700
- Pharmacist available 5pm to 9am every day
- Translation services in over 130 languages upon request.

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