



Durham Region Health Department **Facts about...**



Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, and Haemophilus Influenza B Vaccines

What is it?

There are many different vaccines that protect against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) diseases. For more information see [Facts About...](#) for each disease. Discuss with your health care provider which vaccine is best to give based on the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario.

How effective are the vaccines?

When the vaccines are given according to the recommended schedule, they protect:

- 97% of children against diphtheria
- 85-90% of children against pertussis
- 99% of children against tetanus
- 95-100% of children against polio and Hib
- 90% of infants less than 3 months of age are protected against pertussis when Tdap is given in pregnancy

Who should get the vaccines?

- Everyone should receive these vaccines according to Ontario's Immunization Schedules
- Vaccination against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and polio is required by law for all children who attend school or daycare in Ontario (unless they are confirmed as exempt by the Health Department)
- Pregnant people should receive a dose of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) vaccine with each pregnancy between 27 and 32 weeks gestation to protect newborns too young to be vaccinated
- People who interact with infants and young children should be up to date for pertussis vaccination
- People who have a wound and are not up to date with their tetanus immunization
- People with certain high-risk medical conditions may require additional doses

What is the schedule for the vaccines?

- Children should receive a combination vaccine against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio and Hib diseases all in a single injection (DTaP-IPV-Hib, Pediacel®). It is recommended for all children at 2, 4, 6 and 18 months of age.

over...

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If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



- Children between 4 to 6 years old should receive a combination vaccine against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and polio diseases (Tdap-IPV, Adacel®-IPV and Boostrix®-IPV).
- Adolescents between 14 and 16 years of age are routinely given a vaccine that protects against diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus diseases (Tdap, Adacel®, Boostrix®). Adults are eligible for one lifetime dose of Tdap after age 18. A dose of Tdap vaccine is also recommended with each pregnancy between 27 and 32 weeks gestation.
- After the one lifetime dose of Tdap vaccine is received in adulthood, a vaccine that protects against diphtheria and tetanus diseases (Td Adsorbed) is routinely given every 10 years.

Are there side effects with the vaccines?

- Diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio and Hib vaccines are safe and well tolerated. Side effects are usually mild and last a short time.
- The most common side effects are redness, pain, and swelling where the needle was given. Other side effects may include fever, chills, headache, irritability, and fatigue.

If you think a serious reaction is developing, seek medical attention right away. Any unusual or significant changes in your health or your child's health after an immunization should be reported to a health care provider and to the Durham Region Health Department.

Who should **NOT** get the vaccines?

The following people should consult with their health care provider prior to vaccination:

- Anyone who has a severe (anaphylaxis) allergy to any vaccine, or to any component of the vaccine
- Anyone with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome occurring within 6 weeks of receiving any vaccine.
- If you may have a bleeding disorder, neurologic disorder or if you are immunocompromised

For more information on contents of the vaccine refer to the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#).

Don't forget to update your immunization record!

For children in school or childcare, update the Health Department of your child's immunization. Health care providers do not report immunizations to the Health Department automatically.

- After you or your child receives a vaccine, update your immunization record (yellow card) if you have one. Keep your records in a safe place.
- You can view or report immunizations online using the Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON) tool (also found at durham.ca/immunizationclinics). ICON allows you to report and view your child's immunizations online any time. You can also attach a photo of the record.
- Call the Health Department at 1-800-841-2729 or 905-666-6242 or by fax 905-666-6216 to provide the dates the vaccines were received

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