



# **Poliomyelitis (Polio) Vaccine**

## **Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV)**

### **What is it?**

- Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) protects against polio. IPV is usually combined in other vaccines but can also be given on its own if needed.
- For more information about Polio, see [Facts About Polio](#).

### **How effective is the polio vaccine?**

- 95% of people who get three doses of the polio vaccine are protected against all three types of the polio virus, and close to 100% of people are protected after getting a booster dose.

### **Who should get the vaccine?**

- Infants and children starting at 2 months of age.
- People at risk of being exposed to the disease.
- Adult travelers over 18 years of age who will be travelling to places where polio is of concern or to places having outbreaks.
- Children who received oral polio vaccine (OPV) on or after April 1, 2016 should talk with a health care provider about receiving IPV to ensure the best protection.

### **What is the schedule for the vaccine?**

- For children under 7 years old, the polio vaccine is routinely given at 2, 4, 6 and 12 to 23 months of age (generally given at 18 months) with a booster at 4 to 6 years.
- For children aged 7 years and older and adults who have not been vaccinated against polio, the polio vaccine is given in 3 doses. The first 2 doses should be given 2 months apart and the third dose 6-12 months later.

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## Are there side effects with the vaccine?

- The polio vaccine is 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.
- If you think you are having a serious reaction, see a health care provider right away. Any new or important changes in your health after a vaccine should be reported to a health care provider and the Durham Region Health Department.

## Who should NOT get the vaccine?

You should talk with a health care provider before getting the vaccine if you:

- Have had a reaction to any vaccine, or any part of a vaccine.
- Have a history of progressive or unstable neurological disorder or Guillain-Barré syndrome within 7 days of getting a vaccine.
- Have a bleeding disorder or are immunocompromised.
- Are sick with a high fever or infection worse than a cold. You should wait until you feel better.

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

## Don't forget to update your record of protection

For children in school or childcare, inform Durham Region Health Department of your child's vaccine. Health care providers do not report vaccines to the Health Department automatically. Keep your records updated and in a safe place.

After your child receives a vaccine, update Durham Region Health Department:

- Online at [durham.ca/immunize](https://durham.ca/immunize) (you may also attach a photo of your record), or
- By calling 1-800-841-2729 or 905-666-6242, or
- By faxing your vaccine/immunization record to 905-666-6216.

The [Immunization Connect Ontario \(ICON\)](#) tool allows you to see your child's vaccine/immunization record online anytime.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | [durham.ca/health](https://durham.ca/health)

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

