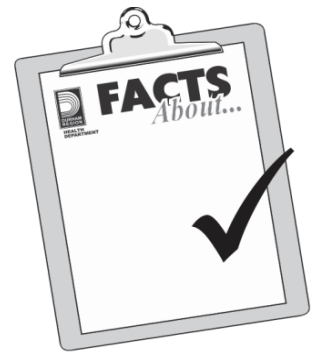




FACTS *About...*



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Polio Vaccine

(Inactivated Polio Vaccine, IPV)

What is it?

Inactivated polio vaccine protects children and adults against polio. It is usually combined in other vaccines but can be given on its own when a person is not fully immunized against polio.

Polio (short for poliomyelitis) is a viral disease that attacks the nervous system and can destroy the nerve cells in muscles leading to permanent paralysis of the muscles used for breathing, eating and walking. Canada was certified polio-free in 1994, and no new cases of polio have been reported in Durham Region since this time, largely due to immunization. (For more information, see *Facts About...Polio*).

How effective is the polio vaccine?

Polio containing vaccines produce immunity to all three types of poliovirus in over 95% of vaccines following three doses of vaccine, and in close to 100% following a booster dose.

Who should receive the vaccine?

Polio vaccine is given to all individuals who are eligible for a primary series of IPV (i.e., up to date for their tetanus and diphtheria vaccinations but are in need of vaccination against polio). Polio vaccine is also publicly funded (free) to travelers who are 18 years and older and have completed their immunization series against polio and are travelling to areas where polio virus is known or suspected to be circulating. According to the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers can receive polio vaccine without safety concerns, but the positive and negative risks of vaccination should be discussed with a doctor.

Persons with immune system problems should also discuss the benefits and potential risks of polio vaccine with a doctor before vaccination.

What is the schedule for the vaccine?

Children under 7 years of age need at least 4 doses of polio vaccine, usually given at 2, 4 and 18 months, and 4-6 years. One of these polio doses must be given on or after four years of age regardless of previous immunization against polio. Polio vaccine is usually combined with other childhood vaccines (e.g., diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine). If given alone, polio vaccine may be given at the same time as other routine vaccine(s) but at a different site with a different syringe.

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For more information

Durham Region Health Department

905-668-2020

1-800-841-2729

durham.ca

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



**Polio vaccine has
eliminated polio in
Canada**

For children aged 7 and older and adults who have not been vaccinated against polio before, 3 doses of polio vaccine is required. The first 2 doses should be given 2 months apart and the third dose 6-12 months later. Polio vaccine may also be given as a booster dose for children over 7 years of age and adults who are not fully immunized or for travel reasons. When traveling to a developing country where polio may exist, discuss with your doctor if you should have a polio booster.

Are there side effects with the vaccine?

The most common side effects of the vaccines are:

- pain, redness, and swelling where the needle was given
- fever/chills
- headache
- decreased energy

Severe allergic reactions after vaccination are very rare and may not be related to the vaccine. However, 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 the immunization should be reported to a doctor **and** the Health Department.

Who should NOT get the vaccine?

- Anyone who has had a serious allergic reaction (called anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of any vaccine. Talk to your healthcare provider.
- Anyone with a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold (wait until feeling better to receive the vaccine).
- If you have any medical condition, discuss with your health care provider to determine if you should receive the vaccine.
- Any component in a vaccine may be a potential allergen. The most common for inactivated polio vaccine are:
 - Neomycin
 - Polymyxin B
 - Streptomycin

For more information on contents of vaccine refer to the Canadian Immunization Guide Evergreen edition www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/cig-gci/p01-14-eng.php

Don't forget to update your record of protection

After you or your child receives a vaccination, update your yellow vaccination record. For children in school or daycare, please call the Health Department to update your child's immunization records. Keep your records in a safe place!

November 23, 2017

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