

## DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, PERTUSSIS AND POLIO (DTaP-IPV) VACCINE

### What is the diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis and inactivated polio vaccine (DTaP-IPV)?

The DTaP-IPV vaccine protects against four diseases: diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw), pertussis (whooping cough) and polio.

The vaccine is approved by Health Canada and is provided free as a part of the [Routine New Brunswick Immunization Schedule](#) for children.

### What are the benefits of the vaccine?

The DTaP-IPV vaccine is the best way to protect against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis and polio. These diseases can cause serious illness and complications, including death. When your child is immunized, they also help protect others as well.

### How is the vaccine given?

The DTaP-IPV vaccine is given as an injection into the upper arm.

### Who should receive the vaccine?

In New Brunswick, the vaccine is provided as a booster dose for children who have already been immunized against these diseases at a younger age. It is given as one dose at four years of age, before a child starts school.

### Who should not receive the vaccine?

The vaccine should not be given if your child:

- had a severe allergic reaction to the vaccine in the past; or
- is allergic to any of the ingredients of the vaccine or its container.

### What are the possible reactions after receiving the vaccine?

Reactions are generally mild and last one to two days. The most common reactions include soreness, redness and/or swelling where the vaccine was given. Some children may have a fever, or experience crankiness, drowsiness, or a loss of appetite.

With any vaccine there is an extremely rare possibility (less than one in a million people) of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. For this reason, it is important to remain in the clinic for 15 minutes after your child receives the DTaP-IPV vaccine. Signs of this reaction may include rash, difficulty breathing or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. This reaction can be treated.

### What can be done for reactions to the vaccine?

- A cold compress at the injection site may reduce discomfort.
- For discomfort and fever, you may give your child acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil®) according to the manufacturer's directions.
- Aspirin (ASA) should **NOT** be given to children younger than 18 years due to its link to Reye's syndrome.

**Any unexpected or serious reaction to a vaccine should be reported to your health-care provider.**

## What else you need to know.

Inform your immunization provider if your child has any health problems or allergies.

Your immunization provider will give you a record of your child's immunization. Keep this record in a safe place and bring it with you when your child is next due for immunization.

If your child has any unusual reactions to the vaccine, or you have any questions or concerns, please contact your health-care provider.

## Further Information

In New Brunswick, the publicly funded DTaP-IPV vaccine is provided to children at age four years at your local Public Health office or health-care provider.

For additional information, contact your health-care provider, [local Public Health office](#) or Tele-Care 811.

Useful websites:

- Government of New-Brunswick <http://www.gnb.ca/health>
- Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness and Promotion <http://www.immunize.cpha.ca>
- Public Health Agency of Canada <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca>

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