IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis and Polio (Tdap-IPV) Vaccine

What is tetanus?

- Tetanus is also called lockjaw.
- It is a disease that occurs when cuts, wounds or burns are infected with tetanus bacteria.
- The bacteria, which can be found anywhere there is dust, dirt, soil, or fecal matter, makes a poison which causes the muscles of the body to go into spasm.
- It can be a life-threatening disease.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is diphtheria?

- Diphtheria is a very serious illness caused by bacteria.
- It can cause an infection of the nose and throat which can affect breathing.
- It can cause an infection of the skin.
- It can cause heart failure or paralysis.
- Even with treatment, about 1 in 10 patients with respiratory diphtheria die. Without treatment, up to half of patients can die from the disease.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is pertussis?

- Pertussis is also called whooping cough and is caused by a bacteria.
- It can cause severe coughing spells that can affect breathing. The disease usually lasts 6 to 12 weeks.
- It can cause pneumonia.
- It can cause seizures, and in some cases death.
- It is preventable through immunization.

What is polio?

- Polio is a disease caused by a virus. It can cause paralysis, long-term disability, or death.
- The paralysis can affect the muscles required for breathing.
- Polio has been eradicated in Canada through immunization.

What is the Tdap-IPV vaccine?

- Tdap-IPV is a single vaccine which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and polio.
- Immunization is the best way to prevent tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and polio.
- The vaccine is given by injection.

Who should should receive the Tdap-IPV vaccine?

Nova Scotia's Routine Immunization Schedules for Children, Youth & Adults recommend the following people get the Tdap-IPV vaccine:

- One dose for children 4 years to less than 7 years of age.
- Primary series for people over 7 years of age who are not completely immunized against these diseases.

Who should NOT receive the Tdap-IPV vaccine?

- People who have had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose or any component of Tdap-IPV vaccine.
- People who are sick or have a fever (temperature of 38.5°C/101.3°F or greater).

Please read other side.

www.nshealth.ca/immunizations

13012/MAY26 REV26-27

nova scotia health

IMMUNIZATION AFTERCARE

Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis and Polio (Tdap-IPV) Vaccine

People should stay in the clinic for at least 15 minutes after receiving any type of immunization to monitor possible reaction. As with any vaccine there is a slight possibility that a more serious reaction could occur.

What are the possible side effects from the vaccine?

- As with any other vaccine, the most common side effects are soreness, redness, or swelling at the injection site.
- Your child may not want to use the arm or leg in which the needle was given as much as usual. This will go away in a few days.
- Irritability and loss of appetite may also occur in young children.
- A small painless lump at the injection site may develop which may last up to a few weeks.
- Less common side effects include fever, chills and/or body ache, headache, diarrhea, nausea and/or vomiting, tiredness, sore or swollen joints.
- More serious side effects such as high fever or seizures have been reported on rare occasions in children after receiving the immunization.

As fever may occur, make sure you have acetaminophen or ibuprofen at home. Follow the instructions that come with the product. Talk to your healthcare provider before using either of these medications as they are not recommended for people with certain medical conditions.

Contact your healthcare provider if:

- A fever lasts longer than 24 hours.
- A fever is 38.5°C (101.3°F) or higher.
- A fever doesn't come down after acetaminophen or ibuprofen are taken.
- A seizure occurs.
- Other illness or symptoms occur.

Questions?

If you have any questions about tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), polio, or the Tdap-IPV vaccination, please call your local Public Health office (see list of offices here: www.nshealth.ca/public-health) or your healthcare provider.

For more information on immunization, please visit the following websites:

Nova Scotia Health Public Health
www.nshealth.ca/immunizations

Immunize Canada
immunize.ca

Public Health Agency of Canada
www.canada.ca/public-health

Canadian Paediatric Society
cps.ca

811
811.novascotia.ca

www.nshealth.ca/immunizations

13012/MAY26 REV26-27

nova scotia health