IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION

# Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis, Polio and Hib (DTaP-IPV-Hib) Vaccine

## 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 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 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 haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)?

- It is a bacteria that can cause serious illness that can cause permanent paralysis, seizures and in some cases, death.
- In children under five, Hib is a major cause of:
  - » Infection of the membranes that cover the brain and spine (meningitis).
  - » Swelling of the tissue that covers the windpipe (epiglottitis). It can cause serious breathing problems if not treated.
- Hib may also cause:
  - » Infection of the lungs (pneumonia).
  - » Infection of the lining of the heart (pericarditis).
  - » Infection of the bone (osteomyelitis).
  - » Buildup of pus in the lungs (empyema).
  - » Infective arthritis.
  - » Blood infection (bacteremia).
- It is preventable through immunization.

## What is the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

- The DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine is a vaccine which protects against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and haemophilus influenzae type b.
- Immunization is the best way to prevent diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio and haemophilus influenzae type b.
- The vaccine is given by injection.

## Who should receive the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

- The Nova Scotia Routine Immunization Schedules for Children, Youth & Adults recommends that children aged 2 months to less than 7 years receive four doses of this vaccine.
- Doses are recommended to be given at 2, 4, 6 and 18 months of age.

*Please read other side.*

**www.nshealth.ca/immunizations**

13071/MAY26 REV25-26

nova scotia health

IMMUNIZATION AFTERCARE

# Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis, Polio and Hib (DTaP-IPV-Hib) 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 immunization there is a slight possibility that a more serious reaction could occur.***

## Who should NOT receive the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccine?

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

## What are the possible side effects of the DTaP-IPV-Hib 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.***

### Call 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 regarding diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, polio, Hib or the DTaP-IPV-Hib vaccination, please call your local Public Health office (see list of offices here: www.nshealth.ca/public-health-offices), or your health care 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**

13071/MAY26 REV25-26

nova scotia health