IMMUNIZATION INFORMATION & AFTERCARE

Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV)

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 IPV?

- IPV is a single, inactivated vaccine that protects against polio.
- Immunization the best way to prevent polio.
- The vaccine is given by injection.

Who should receive IPV?

- Children and adolescents who are up to date on tetanus vaccines, but who have not had at least three doses of IPV–containing vaccine (e.g., DTaP-IPV-Hib or Tdap-IPV).
- Adults who are up to date on tetanus vaccines, but who are at high risk for polio, including travellers to endemic areas (places where a certain disease is common).

Note: IPV is usually given in combination vaccines. IPV alone should be given only to adults at high risk of polio or to children who do not require additional doses of tetanus vaccine.

Who should NOT receive IPV?

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

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 of IPV?

- As with any other vaccine, the most common side effects are soreness, redness, or swelling at the injection site. Some people may have a fever.

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.
- Other illness or symptoms occur.

Questions?

If you have any questions about polio or IPV, 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

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