WILL MY CHILD FEEL ANY SIDE EFFECTS AFTER THEY ARE IMMUNIZED?

Many children do not feel any side effects after they are immunized.

The most common side effects are redness, swelling, or pain in the area where the needle goes in.

Other, less common, side effects are mild headache, fever, chills, diarrhea, nausea, body aches, decreased energy, and sore or swollen joints.

WHAT CAN I DO IF MY CHILD HAS A REACTION OR A FEVER?

After your child receives any vaccine, they will be observed for at least 15 minutes. This is because there is a slight chance that your child could have a serious allergic reaction. A serious allergic reaction would happen soon after receiving the vaccine.

By observing your child, the nurse would be able to take care of them.

If your child has a fever, you might need to treat the fever at home after the vaccination. Make sure you have acetaminophen or ibuprofen at home just in case. A fever is not necessarily bad, but it may make your child uncomfortable. If you think your child has a fever,

- take their temperature
- give them acetaminophen or ibuprofen if their temperature is over 38.5°C (101°F), and follow the instructions on the container
- encourage them to drink EXTRA fluids, such as water and juice

CALL YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR 811 IF

- the fever lasts longer than 24 hours
- the fever is 39.5°C (103°F) or higher
- the fever doesn’t come down after you’ve given your child acetaminophen or ibuprofen
- your child seems sick and has other symptoms

WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK!

If you have any questions about immunization, or if there is anything you don’t understand, contact your local Public Health office. You’ll find contact information in your School Immunization Program booklet.