Tetanus, Diphtheria, Polio (Td-IPV) Vaccine

Immunization protects you from disease. Get protected, get immunized.

- **Vaccines make your immune system stronger by building antibodies, which help prevent diseases.**
- **Immunization is safe. It is much safer to get immunized than to get these diseases.**

Who should have the Td-IPV vaccine?

This vaccine is given to adults who need the tetanus, diphtheria (Td) vaccine and who are also at risk for polio (e.g., unimmunized, travelling to or receiving travellers from a polio risk area, type of work).

How many doses of Td-IPV vaccine are needed?

The first time people get immunized for tetanus, diphtheria, and polio, 3 doses are usually given over a period of time. This is called the primary series. People usually get this series as babies.

After the primary series, booster doses are needed to keep you protected. This vaccine is usually used as a booster in adults who are at risk for polio. It may also be used for adults who were not immunized as babies. Each person may need a different number of doses.

A similar vaccine may be used in adults who have not yet had their adult dose of pertussis (whooping cough).

How well does the vaccine work?

After the primary series of tetanus, diphtheria, and polio vaccine, followed by a booster dose, protection is almost 100% for tetanus, diphtheria, and polio.

It is important to get booster doses because protection may weaken over time.

Where can I get the vaccine?

If you need the vaccine due to work (e.g., some healthcare workers), talk to your Workplace Health and Safety Department.

If you are travelling to a polio risk country, it is important to call a travel health clinic for advice and immunization.

All others should contact the public health office in their area.

Are there side effects from Td-IPV vaccine?

Reactions to the vaccine are usually mild and go away in a few days. They may include:

- redness, swelling, and discomfort where the needle was given
- feeling unwell, headache or dizziness
- fever

It is important to stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after immunization because people can have a rare but serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis).

Unusual reactions can happen. Call Health Link at 811 to report any unusual reactions.

How can I manage side effects?

- To help with discomfort and swelling, put a cool, wet cloth over the area.
- If you need fever or pain medicine, check with your pharmacist or doctor. Do not give aspirin to anyone younger than 19 years old because it can cause serious health problems.
- Some people with health problems (e.g., weak immune system) must call their doctor whenever they get a fever. If you have been told to do this, call your doctor—even if you think the fever was due to immunization.

Is there anyone who cannot have Td-IPV vaccine?

You may not be able to have the vaccine if you:

- have an allergy to parts of the vaccine—always tell your healthcare provider about allergies.
- had a severe or unusual reaction after this vaccine (or a similar one)—always tell your healthcare provider if you have had reactions.

You can be immunized if you have a mild illness (e.g., cold), even if you have a fever.

For More Information


Call Health Link at **811**


Go to **immunizealberta.ca**


Go to **myhealth.alberta.ca**

Disease Quick Facts

Diphtheria

- nose and throat infection caused by bacteria
- can cause trouble breathing or swallowing, heart failure, and paralysis
- 1 out of 10 people who get diphtheria will die
- spread by coughing, sneezing, or close contact with an infected person

Polio

- nervous system infection caused by a virus
- most people do not have symptoms, but can spread the disease
- can lead to paralysis and death
- spread by infected stool getting onto hands or into food and water, and then into the mouth

Tetanus

- bacterial infection that causes spasms of the jaw (lock jaw) and other muscles
- can lead to trouble breathing, seizures, and death
- this bacteria is common in dirt, manure, and human stool and enters the body by a wound or animal bite
- tetanus disease is rare since a vaccine became available in the 1940s