

# Injection Sites for Routine Immunizations

For School Age Children, Adolescents, or Adults who Wish to Use Anaesthetic Creams, Gels, or Patches

If you wish to use an anaesthetic cream, gel, or patch (medicine that numbs the skin) for routine immunizations, talk to your pharmacist and bring this handout with you. The pharmacist can help choose the right product for you or your child, show you how to use it safely, and talk about possible side effects. You will need to put on the anesthetic cream, gel, or patch before you come to the immunization appointment. If you remove the cream, gel, or patch before you see the nurse, use a pen to draw a circle around the area that was numbed.

This chart shows the usual injection sites used by public health nurses in Alberta to help you and the pharmacist know where the numbing medicine will need to be put. However, be aware that there is a chance that injection sites may change when the nurse sees you or your child.

More vaccines may be needed if you or your child has a medical condition

Routine Visit	Vaccines	Usual Injection Sites (Shown by Shaded Area in Diagrams A & B)
School Immunizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>dTap</li> <li>HBV</li> <li>HPV</li> <li>MenC-ACYW</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One arm as shown in Diagram A if getting one vaccine</li> <li>Both arms if getting two or more vaccines</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPV</li> <li>MMR</li> <li>MMR-Var</li> <li>VZ</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One arm as shown in Diagram B if getting one vaccine</li> <li>Both arms if getting two or more vaccines</li> </ul>
Adult – routine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Td/dTap</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One arm as shown in Diagram A</li> </ul>
Annual Influenza Vaccine only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flu</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One arm as shown in Diagram A</li> </ul>

## DIAGRAM A

Shoulder Muscle  
(Deltoid)



## DIAGRAM B

Between Skin and Muscle of Upper Arm  
(Subcutaneous)



Abbreviation	Vaccine
<b>dTap</b>	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Acellular Pertussis
<b>Flu</b>	Influenza
<b>HBV</b>	Hepatitis B
<b>HPV</b>	Human Papillomavirus
<b>IPV</b>	Polio
<b>MenC-ACYW</b>	Meningococcal Conjugate ACYW-135
<b>MMR</b>	Measles, Mumps, Rubella
<b>MMR-Var</b>	Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella
<b>Td</b>	Tetanus, Diphtheria
<b>VZ</b>	Varicella

Check with a pharmacist or public health nurse if you are unsure where to put the anesthetic cream, gel, or patch. The nurse can only use the area that was numbed if the anesthetic cream, gel, or patch was in the right place.