

Immunizations for Babies at **4** months

Vaccines are safe. It is safer to get the vaccine than to get the disease. Protect your child and others by getting all vaccines on time.

Three vaccines are recommended at four months of age.

1. Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Hepatitis B, Polio and Haemophilus Influenza Type B (DTaP – HB – IPV – Hib)

One vaccine given by needle that protects against 6 different diseases.

Diphtheria

This disease can cause breathing problems, heart problems, and paralysis. About 1 in 10 die from diphtheria.

Spread:

Coughing, sneezing, or by direct skin to skin contact.

Tetanus (Lockjaw)

This disease can cause painful muscle spasms, broken bones, and breathing difficulty. About 1 in 5 die from tetanus.

Spread:

Tetanus bacteria lives in the soil and can enter the body through a cut or scrape.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

This disease can cause lung infection (pneumonia), seizures, and brain damage. About 1 in 170 die from pertussis.

Spread:

Coughing, sneezing, or close face to face contact.

Hepatitis B

This disease can cause permanent liver damage, liver cancer, and death. Infants infected before 6 months of age have a 90 per cent chance of having disease for life.

Spread:

Contact with infected blood or body fluids.

Polio

This disease can cause paralysis. About 1 in 200 die from polio.

Spread:

Contact with infected bowel movements (stool).

Haemophilus Influenza Type B

This disease can cause pneumonia, swelling of the brain lining (meningitis), and blood infection (septicemia). About 1 in 20 die from haemophilus influenza type B.

Spread:

Coughing, sneezing, or close face to face contact.

Possible Reactions (side effects):

Many children who get vaccines have no side effects. For those children that do, the side effects are usually mild like soreness, redness, or swelling where the vaccine was given. Some children get a fever and sleep or cry more than usual. These side effects usually go away after a day or two.

For more information:

HealthLinkBC File #105



2. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine

A vaccine given by needle that protects against pneumococcal disease. This disease can cause blood infection (septicemia), lung infection (pneumonia), and swelling of the brain lining (meningitis). About 1 in 4 die from meningitis caused by pneumococcal disease.

Spread:

Sneezing, coughing, sharing of spit, or close face to face contact.

Possible Reactions (side-effects):

Many children who get vaccines have no side effects. For those children that do, the side effects are usually mild like soreness, redness, or swelling where the vaccine was given. Some children get a fever and sleep or cry more than usual. These side effects usually go away after a day or two.

For more information:

HealthLinkBC File #62a

3. Rotavirus Vaccine

A weakened live vaccine given by mouth that protects against Rotavirus, a severe stomach illness which can cause severe diarrhea and dehydration.

Spread:

Contact with bowel movements (stool) of an infected child. Virus from the vaccine may be found in your baby's stool for at least 10 days after immunization. Parents and caregivers should wash their hands well after changing diapers.

Possible Reactions:

- Crankiness, stomach pain, and mild diarrhea.
- Blocked bowel (intussusception) (1 – 2 in 100,000).
- Signs of intussusception are swollen stomach, repeated vomiting, blood in the stool, and intense crying. If your baby is experiencing signs of intussusception take them to the closest emergency department.

For more information:

HealthLinkBC File #104a



Wait in the clinic area for 15 minutes after immunizations

While extremely rare, it is possible that your child could have a life threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis (occurs in less than 1 in 1 million). This might include hives, problems breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. If this happens after you leave the clinic, call 9-1-1. Report serious or unexpected reactions to your health care provider.

*Note: Do not give ibuprofen to a child less than 6 months of age without speaking to a doctor first. Do not give children Aspirin™ or other medicines that contain acetylsalicylic acid (ASA). Giving medicines with Aspirin™ or ASA to children less than 18 years of age can cause Reye Syndrome (a condition that causes damage to the brain and liver).

For more information on making a better immunization experience for your baby, see:

HealthLinkBC Files #50e and #50h

Care for your baby after Immunizations

- Hold and cuddle your baby.
- Let your baby feed more often.
- Put a cold cloth on the leg where your baby was immunized.
- Give acetaminophen* for soreness or fever in babies under six months. For babies under three months, talk with your doctor or pharmacist before the immunization appointment about how much acetaminophen to give if fever or soreness happens. After hours call 8-1-1 and speak to a pharmacist.

Tell the person giving the vaccines if your child has:



- Had a life threatening reaction to a previous vaccine, vaccine component or latex.
- Had guillain-barré syndrome (GBS) within 8 weeks of a tetanus vaccine.
- Had a blocked bowel (intussusception) or a bowel problem that could result in intussusception.
- A weakened immune system from disease or medical treatment.
- Moderate to severe diarrhea or vomiting, or a serious illness.
- A family history of either severe combined immunodeficiency disorder (SCID) or a family history of repeated unexplained baby deaths.

There is no need to delay getting your baby immunized because of a cold or other mild illness.



Your baby's next immunizations are due at 6 months

Make an appointment today

www.fraserhealth.ca/immunizations



Download the CANImmunize app to help get your baby immunized on time and keep track of their immunization records

www.canimmunize.ca/en/home

