

# Td-IPV (Tetanus Diphtheria- Inactivated Polio) Vaccine Fact Sheet

The tetanus, diphtheria and inactivated polio vaccine (Td-IPV) helps to protect almost everyone against all three diseases, when given in the recommended schedule.

## What are tetanus, diphtheria and polio?

- **Tetanus, or lockjaw**, is a serious bacterial infection you can get if dirt containing the tetanus germ gets into a cut in the skin. Tetanus germs are usually found in soil, dust and manure. It does not spread from person to person. Tetanus usually causes cramping of the muscles and severe convulsions, and it can be fatal.
- **Diphtheria** is a serious bacterial infection of the nose, throat and skin, and it is spread through coughing, sneezing and skin-to-skin contact. Diphtheria causes sore throat, fever and chills and can result in breathing problems, heart failure and paralysis and death.
- **Polio** is a serious infection caused by a virus. It can be spread through coughing, sneezing or by eating contaminated food or drinking contaminated water. It is still present in some developing countries where there may be poor sanitation. Polio can cause nerve damage and paralyze the muscles used for breathing, talking, eating and walking. Though it can be fatal, it has become a rare disease, due to worldwide immunization campaigns.

## Who should get the publicly funded (free) Td-IPV vaccine in Ontario?

- While Td-IPV vaccine can be given to those over 7 years of age, there are other combination vaccines that protect against more diseases. These are preferred for children, adolescents and adults who have not been previously immunized.
- Td-IPV vaccine is recommended as a booster for adults who are travelling to areas where polio is common, if the last dose of polio vaccine was given at least 10 years ago.

## Who should not get the Td-IPV vaccine?

- Anyone under 7 years of age.
- Anyone who has had a serious allergic reaction to any previous dose of vaccine containing tetanus, diphtheria or polio, or to any component of the vaccine:
  - **Td Polio Adsorbed** – tetanus toxoid, diphtheria toxoid, inactivated polio types 1,2 & 3,, aluminum phosphate, sodium chloride, polysorbate, 2- phenoxyethanol, bovine serum albumin, trace amounts neomycin and polymixin B, and residual formaldehyde (Does **not** contain latex)
- Anyone with a high fever or moderate to severe illness should wait until they feel well.
- Anyone who has received a booster dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine in the past 5 years.
- Anyone who has a history of Guillain-Barre syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks of a tetanus toxoid vaccine.

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## What are the common side effects of this vaccine?

- Some people may feel sore and swollen for a few days where the needle was given.
- Some people may have general muscle aches, fever and feel tired for a day or two.
- Tylenol® or ibuprofen may be taken afterwards, as directed, to reduce discomfort or fever.
- **Children under 19 years of age must not be given ASA, Aspirin® or salicylates.**

## What else do I need to know?

- Vaccination of pregnant women with Td-IPV should be delayed until after the first trimester and be given only if it is clearly needed.
- Lactating women may safely receive the vaccine.
- To reduce the spread of germs, sneeze or cough into a tissue or into your elbow or upper sleeve, and wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.
- If travelling, follow the advice on the Safe Food and Water Fact Sheets.
- The Immunization of School Pupils Act requires all students between the ages of 4 to 17 to be immunized according to Ontario's Immunization Schedule, unless a valid Statement of Medical Exemption or Conscience or Religious Belief is on file with public health.

## When should I seek medical help after immunization?

- If you or your child experiences any unusual side effects, please seek medical attention and notify us.
- Go to Emergency at a hospital right away or call 911 if you or your child has any of the following symptoms after immunization:
  - swelling of the face and neck
  - problems breathing
  - hives and itchy, reddened skin

## Your Record of Protection

After you receive any immunization, make sure your health care provider updates your personal immunization record. Keep it in a safe place. Please inform us of any immunizations not received from public health.

## Other Questions?

Talk to your health care provider or call our Immunization Program at 613-966-5500  
Toll Free 1-800-267-2803 | TTY Dial 711 (1-800-267-6511) | [www.hpepublichealth.ca](http://www.hpepublichealth.ca)

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