

Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV)

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Vaccines (or needles) are the best way to protect against some very serious infections. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization strongly recommends routine immunization.

This vaccine protects children and adults against polio. Vaccination against polio is required by law for all children attending school in Ontario (unless exempted).

What is Polio?

Polio is a dangerous disease that people get from drinking water or eating food with the polio germ in it. This disease can cause nerve damage and paralyze a person for life. It can paralyze muscles used for breathing, talking, eating, and walking. It can also cause death.

How well does IPV protect against polio?

The vaccine protects 99 percent of people who get all their needles.

When should IPV be given?

IPV can be given alone or in combination with other vaccines. Your doctor will decide which vaccines you need. Only adults who are likely to come in contact with the polio germ need to receive the polio vaccine. These adults include:

- people who travel to other countries where polio is common,
- laboratory workers who handle specimens that may contain the polio germ, and
- health care workers who look after patients who may have the polio germ.

Is IPV safe?

Yes. Side effects of this polio vaccine (IPV) are mild and last for only a few days after getting the needle. Some people get mild pain, swelling, and redness at the spot where the needle was given.

There is no risk of a pregnant woman or anyone else catching polio from someone who has been recently vaccinated.

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When should I call my doctor?

Call your doctor if any of the following symptoms develop within three days of getting the needle:

- Hives
- Swelling of the face or mouth
- Trouble breathing
- Very pale colour and serious drowsiness
- Other serious problems

Who should not get IPV?

The doctor may decide not to give the IPV vaccine if the person has:

- a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold,
- a severe allergy to an antibiotic called neomycin, polymyxin B or streptomycin,
- a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to this vaccine, or
- a severe allergy to any component of the vaccine.

Who should I talk to if I have any more questions about IPV?

Talk to your doctor or call KFL&A Public Health for more information.

Your record of protection

After you receive any immunization, make sure the doctor updates your personal immunization record such as the “Yellow card.” Keep it in a safe place!