

# Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Polio (Td-IPV) Vaccine

## What is tetanus?

Tetanus or lockjaw is a serious disease that causes cramping of the muscles in the neck, arms, leg and stomach and painful convulsions which can be severe enough to break bones. Even with early treatment, tetanus kills 10–20% of those who get it. You can get tetanus when the germs that can be found everywhere (usually in soil, dust, manure) get into an open wound. It does not spread from person to person.

## What is diphtheria?

Diphtheria is a serious infection of the nose, throat and skin. It is passed to others through coughing and sneezing. It causes sore throat, fever and chills. It can lead to breathing problems, heart failure and nerve damage. Treatment for diphtheria includes an antitoxin, followed by antibiotics. However, it is becoming more difficult to treat the diphtheria bacteria due to antibiotic resistance. Diphtheria kills 1 out of every 10 people who get the disease.

## What is polio?

Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus. It invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. You get it from drinking water or eating food with the polio germ in it. It is also spread from person to person. Polio mainly affects children under five years of age.

Initial symptoms are fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck and pain in the limbs. One in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis (usually in the legs). Among those paralysed, 5–10% die when their breathing muscles become immobilized.

## Who should get the vaccine?

Td Polio vaccine is given to people seven years or older to protect against tetanus, diphtheria and polio. It can be given when polio protection is required along with tetanus and diphtheria (i.e. if you haven't received enough polio vaccine in the past or if you are traveling as an adult to a country where polio is a risk).

### Td-IPV Vaccine:

When Td-IPV vaccine is given in the recommended number of shots, it protects virtually 100 per cent of people against tetanus, over 95 per cent of people against diphtheria, and 99 per cent of people against polio. Vaccination also makes these diseases milder for those who may catch them.

## Who should not get the Td Polio vaccine?

- Anyone with a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold
- Anyone with a severe allergy to antibiotics called neomycin or polymyxin B
- A serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to this vaccine

### Side effects:

Side effects of the Td Polio vaccine are mild and last for only a few days after getting the needle. Mild pain, swelling and redness are common at the spot where the needle was given. A few people may get a mild fever, lose their appetite or feel tired for a day or two after the needle.

## When should I seek medical attention?

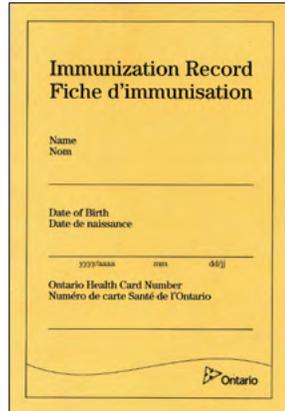
If you develop hives, swelling of the face or mouth, trouble breathing, serious drowsiness or other serious problems seek medical attention immediately.

## Your record of protection

After any immunization, ensure your personal immunization record or "yellow card" is updated. Keep it in a safe place.

## Questions?

Talk to your health care provider or contact Public Health at 519-575-4400.



The image shows a yellow immunization record card. At the top, it reads "Immunization Record" and "Fiche d'immunisation". Below this, there are fields for "Name / Nom", "Date of Birth / Date de naissance", and "Ontario Health Card Number / Numéro de carte Santé de l'Ontario". The date of birth field is pre-filled with "yyyy-mm-dd". At the bottom right, there is the Ontario logo.

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## Region of Waterloo Public Health

*Infectious Diseases, Dental and Sexual Health*