

Rotavirus Vaccine



Don't Wait, Vaccinate!

Rotavirus is a common virus that infects the stomach and intestines. It is the major cause for severe diarrhea, vomiting and dehydration among infants and children. It can also cause severe illness in the elderly and those with weak immune systems. A person can get the infection more than once.

Diseases	Rotavirus is spread by:	Rotavirus symptoms:	Possible complications:
	Contact with water or food contaminated by the stool of an infected person (poor hand washing). Touching contaminated surfaces or objects (i.e. toys) then placing finger or object in mouth.	Sudden fever Vomiting Watery diarrhea	Dehydration Severe vomiting/diarrhea requiring hospitalization

This vaccine is the best way to protect against rotavirus and its complications. In healthy infants, vaccination prevented 74% of all infections and 98% of severe infections. The vaccine has reduced the need for hospitalizations due to rotavirus by over 96%. Two vaccine doses are needed to ensure the best protection possible. The first dose is usually given at 2 months of age (20 weeks of age at the latest) and the second at 4 months (24 weeks of age at the latest). Rotavirus vaccine is provided free of charge to infants in Ontario.

This vaccine is very safe. It is given by mouth rather than a needle and can be given at the same time as other immunizations. Your health care provider may decide not to give this vaccine to your child if he/she has:

- A high fever, a serious infection worse than a cold or diarrhea/vomiting (may delay the vaccine until your child is well)
- A severe allergy to an antibiotic called neomycin
- A severe allergy to a previous dose of this vaccine or any component of the vaccine including latex
- A gastrointestinal/digestive tract illness or a history of intussusception
- A weakened immune system from HIV infection, cancer, blood disorder, or from medications such as steroids that reduce the immune response
- Received blood products, including immunoglobulin within the past 42 days

Rotavirus vaccine can be administered simultaneously or at any interval before or after other live vaccines, if indicated.

Careful hand washing should be done when changing the diapers of an infant who has recently received the vaccine (for approximately 10 days post vaccination).

Vaccine	Possible side effects:	What to do:
	Side effects are not common.	
	May run a mild fever. May experience diarrhea, vomiting, runny nose, wheezing or coughing, loss of appetite, irritability or passing gas.	See a health care provider if symptoms are serious.
	Severe allergic reactions are very rare. Most severe reactions occur shortly after receiving the vaccine.	It is important to wait 15 minutes after the injection for observation before leaving the clinic. Seek immediate medical attention if experiencing a severe reaction.

For more information go to:

- www.immunize.ca
- www.healthcanada.gc.ca/vaccinate
- www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/immunization
- <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/first-nations-inuit-health/family-health/immunization.html>