

# Care After Immunization

## Infant/Child

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Immunization (dd-Mon-yyyy): \_\_\_\_\_

Your child had the following vaccine(s) today:

INACTIVATED VACCINES	LIVE VACCINES
<input type="checkbox"/> DTaP-IPV-Hib-HB <input type="checkbox"/> dTap-IPV <input type="checkbox"/> dTap <input type="checkbox"/> DTaP-IPV-Hib <input type="checkbox"/> hepatitis B (HBV) <input type="checkbox"/> human papillomavirus (HPV-9) <input type="checkbox"/> influenza – inactivated (FLU) <input type="checkbox"/> meningococcal conjugate C (MenconC) <input type="checkbox"/> meningococcal conjugate ACYW-135 (MenC-ACYW) <input type="checkbox"/> pneumococcal conjugate (PNEU-C13) <input type="checkbox"/> pneumococcal polysaccharide (PNEUMO-P) <input type="checkbox"/> other _____	<input type="checkbox"/> rotavirus (Rot/Rot-5) <input type="checkbox"/> MMR-Var <input type="checkbox"/> MMR <input type="checkbox"/> VZ <input type="checkbox"/> other _____
	D or d      diphtheria T            tetanus aP or ap    acellular pertussis (whooping cough) IPV          polio Hib <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b HB          hepatitis B MMR        measles, mumps, rubella VZ or Var    varicella (chickenpox)

### Side Effects

#### Inactivated and live vaccines

Many babies and children have no side effects from these vaccines. If your child does have side effects, they tend to be mild and go away in a few days. Side effects may include:

- redness, warmth, swelling, bruising, itching, a rash, a hard spot, feeling stiff, numb, or sore, or a small lump where they had the needle
- crying, feeling tired or unwell, or getting upset easily
- having trouble sleeping, increased or decreased sleep
- a headache
- feeling dizzy
- a fever or chills
- body aches or sore joints
- not feeling hungry or not wanting to eat (poor appetite)
- feeling sick to your stomach (nausea), stomach pain, vomiting (throwing up) or loose stool (diarrhea)
- a sore throat, cough, runny nose
- swollen lymph nodes
- a rash
- feeling itchy
- an earache
- increased sweating

#### Live vaccines

In addition to the above side effects, the following may happen up to 6 weeks after your child gets live vaccines:

- **Vaccines that protect against MMR** – measles-like rash (a blotchy, red rash), rubella-like rash (rash with red, raised bumps).
- **Vaccines that protect against varicella (chickenpox)** – varicella-like rash (rash with water-filled blisters). If your child gets a rash that looks like varicella, keep it covered. If you cannot cover the rash, your child needs to stay away from anyone who is pregnant, newborn babies, and people with weak immune systems. If your child has more than 50 spots, call Health Link at 811.
- **Rotavirus vaccine** – There is a very low risk of intussusception after the rotavirus vaccine. Intussusception is when one part of the intestine slides into another part (like a telescope). This causes a blockage. If this happens, it is usually within 7 days after the first dose. The risk of intussusception is even lower after the second or third dose. If your child has severe stomach swelling or pain, vomiting that will not stop or keeps coming back, blood in their stool, or a high fever, take them to a doctor right away. This could be intussusception.  
The vaccine virus may be in your baby's poop for up to 10 days after they get the vaccine. Wash your hands carefully after changing diapers and before touching food. The risk of spreading the virus after getting the vaccine is highest around day 7, but this is not common. Anyone with a weak immune system should not change your child's diapers for 10 days after your child had the rotavirus vaccine (if this is possible).

It is rare to have a serious side effect after a vaccine. Call Health Link at 811 to report any serious or unusual side effects.

For more information about each vaccine, read the vaccine information on [ahs.ca/immunize](https://ahs.ca/immunize) or talk to your healthcare provider.

See reverse for more information

## What can I do to help my child feel better?

- Hold, cuddle, and comfort younger children.
- To help with soreness and swelling:
  - Put a cool, wet cloth over the area where your child had the needle.
  - Encourage your child to move the arm or leg where they had the needle.
- If your child has a fever, they should wear fewer layers of clothes and drink more fluids. For more information about fever, go to [MyHealth.Alberta.ca](https://myhealth.alberta.ca).
- There is medicine to help with a fever or pain. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure what medicine or dose to give. Follow the directions on the package.
- Children under the age of 18 years should **not** take aspirin for 6 weeks after getting a vaccine that protects against varicella (unless your doctor has told you to take it) because it can cause serious health problems.
- Some people with health problems such as a weak immune system must call their doctor if they get a fever. If you were told to do this, call your child's doctor even if you think the fever is from the vaccine.

## For more information about immunization



Call Health Link at **811**



Scan the QR code or go to **[ahs.ca/immunize](https://ahs.ca/immunize)**

To get a copy of immunizations your child has had in Alberta, contact your local Public Health or Community Health Centre.

This material is for information purposes only. It should not be used in place of medical advice, instruction or treatment. If you have questions, talk to your doctor or appropriate healthcare provider.