

Infanrix-hexa™ (DTaP-HB-IPV-Hib) Immunization

The Infanrix-hexa™ Immunization is part of the Yukon children's regular immunization program.

This immunization is the best way to protect your child against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, polio, and Haemophilus influenzae type b. These diseases can be serious and sometimes cause death. When you get your child immunized, you help protect others as well.



This immunization protects against six diseases:

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis (or whooping cough)
- Hepatitis B (HB)
- Polio (IPV)
- Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib)

Diphtheria can result in very serious breathing problems. It can also cause heart failure and paralysis.

Pertussis, or “**whooping cough**,” can cause pneumonia, convulsions, brain damage or death. Pertussis can cause severe coughing that often ends with a whooping sound before the next breath. This cough can last several months and occurs more often at night.

Tetanus, is caused by a germ (bacteria) mostly found in the soil. When the bacteria enter the skin through a cut or scrape, they produce a poison that can cause painful tightening of muscles all over the body. It is very serious if the breathing muscles are affected.

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) can cause serious and life-threatening infections including meningitis, an infection of the lining that covers the brain, and septicemia, an infection of the blood.

Polio can result in paralysis of arms or legs and even death.

Hepatitis B can cause serious disease including permanent liver damage called cirrhosis. Hepatitis B is also the main cause of liver cancer, which can be fatal.

Children between the ages of two months and seven years who have not received any other immunization containing DTaP should get Infanrix-hexa™.

This immunization is given as a series of three doses, or shots. The first dose is given at two months of age, the second at four months and the third at six months of age. The immunization is given at the same time as other childhood immunizations.

Possible side effects of the immunization:

Common reactions to the immunization may include soreness, redness and swelling where the shot was given. Some may have a fever or experience crankiness, drowsiness, or a loss of appetite. These reactions are mild and generally last one to two days.

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any immunization because there is an extremely rare possibility of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. If this happens after you leave the clinic, call 911 or the local emergency number. This reaction can be treated, and occurs in fewer than one in a million people who get the immunization.

What to do:

Acetaminophen or Tylenol® can be given for fever or soreness. ASA or Aspirin® should NOT be given to anyone under 20 years of age due to the risk of Reye Syndrome.

Report serious or unexpected reactions to your public health nurse or doctor.

Who should not get this immunization?

Speak with a public health nurse or doctor if your child has had a life-threatening reaction to a previous dose of diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, hepatitis B, polio, or Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine, or any component of the immunization, including neomycin, polymyxin B or latex.

The immunization is not given to people 7 years of age and older.

**Consult your health care provider if side effects persist over 48 hours.
For more information on immunizations, visit:**

www.hss.gov.yk.ca/immunization_info.php

