

What to tell the Doctor or Nurse when taking your child for a vaccination

Please let the Doctor or Nurse know if your child:

- is unwell at the time of vaccination
- has had a severe reaction following any vaccination
- has a severe allergy
- has had a live vaccine within the last month (e.g. tuberculosis, measles, mumps, rubella, yellow fever)
- has had an injection of immunoglobulin or a whole blood transfusion in the last 3-5 months
- has a disease that lowers immunity, (e.g. leukaemia, cancer, HIV/AIDS) or is having treatment which lowers immunity (e.g. steroid drugs such as hydrocortisone or prednisolone, radiotherapy, chemotherapy)
- lives with someone who has a disease that lowers immunity or who is having treatment that lowers immunity
- has a medical condition affecting the brain or spinal cord
- is living with someone who is not immunised.

For further information please contact your local public health unit

Public Health Units:

Perth – North	(08) 9380 7700
Perth – South	(08) 9431 0200
Albany – Great Southern	(08) 9842 7500
Bunbury – South West	(08) 9781 2350
Broome – Kimberley	(08) 9194 1630
Carnarvon – Midwest	(08) 9941 0515
Geraldton – Midwest	(08) 9956 1985
Kalgoorlie-Boulder – Goldfield	(08) 9080 8200
Northam – Wheatbelt	(08) 9622 4320
Port Hedland – Pilbara	(08) 9172 8333
Central Immunisation Clinic – West Perth	(08) 9321 1312



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health

Diseases prevented by the routine 4 year old vaccinations



**Vaccinations are available from
your GP, Aboriginal Medical Service,
Local Government or Community
Health Immunisation Clinic**

This document can be made available
in alternative formats on request for
a person with a disability.



The Department of Health recommends two booster vaccinations at 4 years of age for all children. These include one injection of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis and poliomyelitis vaccine (DTPa-IPV, Infanrix-IPV) and one injection of measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMR, Priorix). These booster vaccinations give your child maximum protection against the following diseases:

Diphtheria – is an acute, highly infectious bacterial infection that is passed from person to person through airborne droplets spread by coughing, sneezing or contact with items like handkerchiefs that have been freshly soiled by throat or nose discharges. It takes 3 to 4 days for symptoms to appear after exposure and the infected person remains infectious for two weeks.

Symptoms begin with a mild fever which progresses, releasing a toxin that causes a thick greyish white membrane at the back of the throat making it difficult to breathe. The toxin can damage the heart and nerve cells.

Tetanus – is an acute, often fatal, disease caused by a toxin (poison) produced by a bacteria (found in soil and manure). It takes 3 to 21 days - usually 8 to 12 days – for symptoms to show. Tetanus cannot be passed from person to person. Symptoms include muscle stiffness and spasms, first in the jaw and neck, then later in the back, chest, abdomen and limbs. In severe cases, spasms may affect the whole body causing convulsions, suffocation and heart failure.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis) – is a highly infectious bacterial infection that is passed from person to person through airborne droplets spread by coughing, or prolonged close contact. After exposure it takes up to 21 days – usually 10 to 15 days – for the symptoms to show. The infected person remains infectious from the onset of symptoms up to 3 weeks after coughing starts. Serious complications of whooping cough include pneumonia and brain damage.

Symptoms begin with a runny nose and persistent bouts of coughing. During a coughing bout, young children may “whoop” as they breathe in, or vomit.

Poliomyelitis – is an acute viral infection that involves the gastrointestinal tract and occasionally the central nervous system. It is acquired by faecal-oral transmission. Symptoms usually begin to show from 7 to 10 days after exposure. The infected person remains infectious from a few days before and up to 2 weeks after the onset of symptoms.

Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, headache, neck and back stiffness, and paralysis.

Measles – is a highly infectious viral infection that is spread from person to person through airborne droplets spread by coughing, or prolonged close contact. Symptoms develop 7 to 21 days – usually 8 to 14 days – after exposure. The infected person remains infectious for 4 days before to 4 days after the rash appears.

Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, sore eyes, weakness and a rash. The red rash usually appears about 4 days after the fever, begins on the face, and then spreads quickly to the neck, body and limbs. Complications include ear infection, pneumonia, and brain damage. Rarely, early dementia and death occurs many years after the infection.

Mumps – is a highly infectious viral infection that is spread from person to person through airborne droplets or saliva. Symptoms usually begin from 12 to 25 days after exposure. The infected person remains infectious from about 6 days before to 9 days after the onset of salivary gland swelling. Rare complications include brain damage and sterility.

Symptoms include fever, headache, vomiting, and painful swelling of the salivary glands or testes.

Rubella (German measles) – is a highly infectious viral infection that is spread from person to person through airborne droplets. If a woman contracts rubella during the early stages of pregnancy, it can cause permanent damage to the brain, eyes, or heart of the foetus. Symptoms develop in 9 to 21 days – usually 14 days – after exposure. The infected person remains infectious from 3 days before, to at least 4 days after the symptoms appear.

Symptoms include headaches, sore eyes, sore throat, fever, swelling and soreness of the neck glands, and a fine red rash over the body. Some people may only present with a raised temperature.