



Vaccine Information for Parents

Your child has been immunised today. Vaccinations, like any medication can have side effects. This leaflet will explain what common reactions can be anticipated after receiving a vaccine and what you as a parent can do if you are concerned.

Common reactions

Most vaccines can cause mild reactions; these will have been explained to you by your immunisation provider. Side effects after vaccination are usually mild and short-lasting and do not need special treatment (see over the page for vaccine side effects).

Rare reactions

As with any medication, on rare occasions, an individual may experience a severe reaction, this includes a high temperature resulting in a febrile convulsion, cellulites (swelling of the tissue) around the site of injection or anaphylaxis (significant allergic reaction where the person faints, or has breathing difficulties).

You are requested to remain at the centre for 15 minutes following your immunisation to ensure your child does not experience any severe reactions which usually occur in the first few minutes following immunisation.

Common reactions following vaccination

What you can do for common reactions

If side effects occur, here are some suggestions to help. However, if side effects seem persistent, see your doctor, immunisation provider or contact **healthdirect 1800 022 222**.

Common reactions	What you can do!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local reactions (red swollen area around site of injection) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give paracetamol (not Aspirin) to ease the discomfort. Place a cold damp cloth over the affected area to give relief.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fever 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the temperature regularly (a fever is above 38°C). Give extra fluids; do not bathe in cool water or overdress an infant if they are hot. Paracetamol may be required if for example an infant or child has a high fever following vaccination (do not use Aspirin). Follow the instructions on the bottle.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritability, decreased appetite, sleepiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These symptoms are common and usually disappear over 24-48 hours and they do not usually require treatment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vomiting and diarrhoea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to breast feed, give small frequent feeds.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small lump may appear at injection site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No treatment is usually required and it will disappear in a few weeks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fainting, may occur usually seen in young adolescents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone who complains of "giddiness" or light-headedness before or after vaccination should be advised to lie down until symptoms subside.
Rare reactions	What you can do!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seizures (convulsion, fit) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some children are more predisposed to seizures when experiencing a high fever, the seizure usually lasts approximately 20 seconds, rarely more than 2 minutes (this is rare). Always see your doctor after a child has had a seizure. Call an ambulance (000) to get immediate assistance if the seizures persist or your child's condition deteriorates.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other serious side effects For example when you consider your child's general condition is deteriorating, unable to breath, in a state of collapse (pale colour skin, shallow or no breathing, having seizures). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call an ambulance (000) to get immediate assistance.

All vaccines used in Australia have been through a safety testing process before being licensed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). This is to ensure that each vaccine is safe and proven to be effective (clinical trials). You can obtain more information about vaccines and reactions to vaccines from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au or Immunisation website Myths and Realities 4th edition 2008 www.immunise.health.gov.au

Ticked boxes indicate vaccines given today ____/____/____

Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis containing vaccines

Infanrix Hexa

Quadracel

Adacel

Other _____

- Common reactions as listed over the page
- Irritable, crying, unsettled and generally unhappy
- Drowsiness or tiredness
- Febrile seizure

Site Given: LA RA LL RL

Oral Rotavirus vaccine

RotaTeq

Other _____

- Fever (temperature)
- Vomiting and diarrhoea can occur up to 7 days following vaccination

Pneumococcal conjugated vaccine

Prevenar

Other _____

- Common reactions as listed over the page

Site Given: LA RA LL RL

Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine

Hiberix

Other _____

- Common reactions as listed over the page

Site Given: LA RA LL RL

Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine

Priorix

MMRV

Other _____

- Common reactions as listed over the page

The following reactions may occur 5–12 days after vaccination:

- Temperature (fever, can be 39.4°C) lasting 2–3 days, faint red rash (not infectious), runny nose, cough and/or puffy eyes
- Drowsiness or tiredness
- Swelling of salivary glands
- Pain and stiffness in the joints (older children/adults)
- Thrombocytopenia (low platelet count) about 1 in 30,000
- Encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) about 1 in 3 million
- MMRV – a varicella form rash may occur (For further information see Varicella vaccine)

Site Given: LA RA LL RL

Meningococcal C conjugate vaccine

Neisvac C

Other _____

- Common reactions as listed over the page
- Irritable, crying, unsettled and generally unhappy
- Loss of appetite
- Headache (older children/adults)

Site Given: LA RA LL RL

Hepatitis A vaccine

VAQTA

Other _____

- Common reactions as listed over the page
- Rash

Site Given: LA RA LL RL

Varicella vaccine

Varilrix

Other _____

- Common reactions as listed over the page
- Temperature (fever, can be above 39°C)

The following reactions may occur 5–26 days after vaccination

- Pustular rash (2–5 lesions) usually at injection site, may also appear on other parts of the body

If those vaccinated develop a rash, they should cover the rash and avoid contact with people who have impaired immunity for the duration of the rash

Site Given: LA RA LL RL

Human Papilloma Virus vaccine

Gardasil

Other _____

- Common reactions as listed over the page
- Mild headache
- Mild nausea
- Fainting

Site Given: LA RA LL RL

Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine

Pneumovax 23

Other _____

- Common reactions as listed over the page
- Muscle pain

Site Given: LA RA LL RL

Hepatitis B vaccine

HB Vax II

- Common reactions as listed over the page
- Dizziness, sweating, muscle pain, insomnia and earache

Site Given: LA RA LL RL

Influenza vaccine

Fluvax

Vaxigrip

Vaxigrip Junior

Influvac

Other _____

- Common reactions as listed over the page
- Drowsiness or tiredness
- Muscle aches
- Fever
- Seizures (rare)
- Guillian-Barre Syndrome (ascending paralysis) about 1 in a million (adults)

Site Given: LA RA LL RL

Inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine (IPV) and IPV containing vaccines

- Common reactions as listed over the page

Reference; the Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th edition NHMRC 2008

How you can obtain advice or report an adverse reaction following vaccination

If you are worried about any side effects, contact your **GP** or **healthdirect** on **1800 022 222**

For all severe side-effects call an **ambulance 000** or **take your child to the nearest hospital emergency department**.

Any serious or unexpected adverse event (reaction) following vaccination (AEFI) should be reported by health professionals (members of the public optional) to the Department of Health using the Western Australian Vaccination Safety Surveillance (WAVSS) system:

- www.wavss.health.wa.gov.au (24 hours a day, 7 days a week) or alternatively contact Central Immunisation Clinic **(08) 9321 1312 (8.30 am - 4.30 pm)** to report your concerns; or
- Complete a WAVSS adverse reaction reporting form and return by fax, post or email:
 - Fax: (08) 9426 9408 (24 hours, 7 days a week)
 - Post: Central Immunisation Clinic, PO Box 8172, Perth Business Centre, WA 6849