

Children under the age of 3 years rarely have symptoms. Older children and adults are more likely to have symptoms lasting one to two weeks, or in severe cases, up to several months. Symptoms when present, may include abdominal discomfort, loss of appetite, nausea, low grade fever and tiredness, sometimes followed by yellow skin and eyes, dark urine and pale faeces.

The best way to stop the spread of hepatitis A is by careful handwashing with soap and warm water:

- After going to toilet or changing nappies
- before eating
- before preparing food.

This vaccine is offered to all indigenous children at 12 months of age and a booster dose at 18 months of age.

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 months.
- Has a disease that lowers immunity, (e.g. leukemia, 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.

Vaccinations are available from your GP, Community Nurse, or Aboriginal Medical Service

Diseases prevented by the routine 12 month vaccinations



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The Department of Health recommends 3 vaccinations at 12 months of age for all non indigenous children. These include one injection of Measles-Mumps-Rubella vaccine (MMR, Priorix), one injection of Meningococcal C vaccine (Neisvac-C) and one injection of Haemophilus influenzae type b (PedvaxHib). Indigenous children require 4 vaccinations. These include one injection of Measles-Mumps-Rubella vaccine (MMR, Priorix), one injection of Meningococcal C vaccine (Neisvac-C), one injection of Haemophilus influenzae type b (PedvaxHib) and one injection of Hepatitis A (VAQTA).

These vaccinations give your child protection against the following diseases:

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 on the face, about 4 days after the fever, 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. Symptoms include fever, headache, vomiting, and painful swelling of the salivary glands or testes. Rare complications include brain damage and sterility.

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.

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.

The infected person remains infectious from 3 days before to at least 4 days after the symptoms appear.

Meningococcal C - is a bacterial infection that is passed via respiratory droplets from person to person. It takes up to 10 days - usually 3 to 4 days - after exposure for symptoms to show.

Infection with this bacteria can cause meningitis (infection of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord), septicaemia (infection of the blood) or a combination of the two.

Common symptoms in babies and young children include fever, rapid breathing, rash, vomiting, irritability, drowsiness and pallor. Prompt diagnosis and emergency treatment of cases of suspected meningococcal disease are life-saving.

Haemophilus influenzae type b - Hib is a highly infectious bacterial infection that is passed from person to person by contact with airborne droplets from the nose or throat, or indirectly by contact with articles contaminated with discharges from the nose or throat. It usually takes 2 to 4 days for symptoms to appear after exposure.

Serious forms of Haemophilus influenzae type b are Hib meningitis and Hib epiglottitis.

Hib Meningitis is very similar to other types of meningitis (infection of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord). Symptoms include fever, headache, stiff neck, irritability, crying, tiredness, vomiting and refusing food and drink. Hib epiglottitis (infection of the epiglottis) causes noisy breathing, difficulty with breathing and swallowing, sore throat and fever.

Hib is not related to the viruses which cause influenza.

Hepatitis A - is a highly infectious viral infection of the liver that is spread through faeces, when the faeces gets onto the hands of other people and then moved from hands to mouth. It can also be spread through contaminated water or food (when faeces gets into the water supply or onto food). It takes 15 -50 days - usually 28-30 days after exposure for symptoms to show. The infected person remains infectious in the two weeks before yellowing (jaundice) occurs, and then slightly infectious during the first week of having jaundice.