

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.

Haemophilus influenzae type b - Hib is a highly infectious bacterial infection that is passed from person to person through 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.

- 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. 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.

Vaccinations are available from your GP, Community Nurse, Local Government Authority or Aboriginal Medical Service.



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Diseases prevented by the routine vaccination schedule (birth to 6 months of age)



Delivering a Healthy WA

The Department of Health recommends the following vaccinations from birth to 6 months of age for both indigenous and non indigenous children. Most of these vaccinations are now given in combination form reducing the number of injections given to your child.

Non indigenous children will receive the following vaccines:

- Hepatitis B at birth (paediatric H-B-Vax II) - injection
- Pneumococcal (7vPCV, Prevenar) - injection
- Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B and haemophilus influenzae type b (DTPa-IPV-HepB-Hib, Infanrix Hexa) - injection
- Rotavirus (Rotarix) - oral vaccine

Indigenous children will receive the following vaccines:

- Hepatitis B at birth (paediatric H-B-Vax II) - injection
- Pneumococcal (7vPCV, Prevenar) - injection
- Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis and hepatitis B (DTPa-IPV-HepB, Infanrix Penta) - injection
- Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib, Pedvax Hib) - injection
- Rotavirus (Rotarix) - oral vaccine

These vaccinations give your child protection against the following diseases:

Hepatitis B - is a viral infection that affects the liver. It is passed from person to person through blood to blood contact, sexual contact or from mother to child at birth. It takes 45 to 180 days - usually 60 to 90 days - for symptoms to appear after exposure and carriers may be infectious for life.

Symptoms begin with abdominal discomfort, loss of appetite, nausea, fever, tiredness, joint pain, dark urine and yellow skin or eyes.

Why give hepatitis B vaccine at birth

While it may not seem important when your baby is small, hepatitis B is a disease that can be caught throughout life. With the infant vaccination program your baby will be protected from hepatitis B throughout infancy, early childhood and youth when the risk of becoming infected with hepatitis B is highest.

Pneumococcal - is a common acute bacterial infection that is passed from person to person through airborne droplets spread by coughing, sneezing, kissing or contact with items such as toys that have been freshly soiled by throat or nose discharges.

It takes 3 to 4 days for symptoms to appear after exposure and the person remains infectious until the bacteria are no longer present in nose and throat secretions.

Symptoms depend on what part of the body the pneumococcal bacteria infects for example:

- If it gets into the blood stream it is called bacteraemia.
- If it gets into the brain, it is called meningitis.
- If it gets into the lungs, it is called pneumonia.
- If it infects the middle ear, it is called otitis media.

Rotavirus - is a viral infection of the gut that is passed very easily from person to person when hands, food or water, and items such as toys are contaminated by faecal matter from infected people. After exposure it takes 24 to 72 hours for symptoms to appear and lasts for 4-6 days. The infected person remains infectious for up to 8 days after the illness.

Symptoms begin with fever, vomiting and diarrhoea which may lead to dehydration and rapid weight loss. Children can spread rotavirus both before and after they become sick with diarrhoea.

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 2 weeks.

Symptoms begin with a mild fever, and progresses to the body releasing a toxin which causes a thick greyish white membrane at the back of the throat making it difficult to breathe; and can damage 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 three