



Polio (IPV)

What is polio?

Polio is a disease caused by a virus. It enters a child's (or adult's) body through the mouth. Sometimes it does not cause serious illness. But sometimes it causes paralysis (can't move arm or leg). It can kill people who get it, usually by paralyzing the muscles that help them breath.

Polio used to be very common in the United States. It paralyzed and killed thousands of people a year before we had a vaccine for it.

Why get vaccinated?

Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV) can prevent polio.

History: A 1916 polio epidemic in the United States killed 6,000 people and paralyzed 27,000 more. In the early 1950's there were more than 20,000 cases of polio each year. Polio vaccination was begun in 1955. By 1960 the number of cases had dropped to about 3,000, and by 1979 there were only about 10. The success of polio vaccination in the U.S. and other countries sparked a world-wide effort to eliminate polio.

Today: No wild polio has been reported in the United States for over 20 years. But the disease is still common in some parts of the world. It would only take one case of polio from another country to bring the disease back if we were not protected by vaccine. If the effort to eliminate the disease from the world is successful, some day we won't need polio vaccine. Until then, we need to keep getting our children vaccinated.

Who should get polio vaccine and when?

IPV is a shot, given in the leg or arm, depending on age.

Most people should get polio vaccine when they are children. Children get 4 doses of IPV, at these ages:

- A dose at 2 to 3 months
- A dose at 4 to 5 months
- A dose at 6-18 months
- A booster dose at 4-6 years

Oral Polio Vaccine: No longer recommended

The polio shot (IPV) does not cause polio.

TRAVEL VACCINATION CENTER

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Some people should not get IPV or should, wait.

- Anyone who has ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to the antibiotics neomycin, streptomycin or polymyxin B should not get the polio shot.
- Anyone who has a severe allergic reaction to a polio shot should not get another one.

These people should wait:

- Anyone who is moderately or severely ill at the time the shot is scheduled should usually wait until they recover before getting polio vaccine.

What are the risks from IPV?

Some people who get IPV get a sore spot where the shot was given. The vaccine used today has never been known to cause any serious problems, and most people don't have any problems at all with it.

However, a vaccine, like any medicine, could cause serious problems, such as a severe allergic reaction. The risk of a polio shot causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

What if there is a serious reaction?

Look for any unusual condition, such as a serious allergic reaction, high fever, or unusual behavior.

If a serious allergic reaction occurred, it would happen within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot. Signs of a serious allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, weakness, hoarseness or wheezing, a fast heart beat, hives, dizziness, paleness, or swelling of the throat.

What should I do?

- Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- Ask your us or health department to file a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form. Or call the VAERS toll-free number yourself at 1-800-822-7967 or visit their website at <http://www.vaers.org>

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

In the rare event that you or your child has a serious reaction to a vaccine, there is a federal program that can help pay for the care of those who have been banned.

Compensation Program, call 1-800-338-2382 or visit the program's website at <http://www.hrsa.gov/osp/vicp>

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