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| Vaccine side effects |
| Please wait a minimum 15 minutes after vaccination.See over page for side effects common to all vaccines. |
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This is the accessible version of the form used by immunisation nurses when vaccines are given. The hardcopy version records the date and time the vaccines are given and how they are administered (either by mouth, or in right arm, left arm, right leg or left leg).

**Date vaccine given:**

**Time vaccine given:**

# Rotavirus vaccine

Some babies will shed the rotavirus in their faeces.

Hand hygiene is recommended after changing or disposing soiled nappies for the next week.

## Vaccine given:

* By mouth.

# Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis- (whooping cough)-polio-hepatitis B-Hib\* vaccine

\**Haemophilus influenzae* type b

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm
* Right leg
* Left leg.

# Pneumococcal vaccine

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm
* Right leg
* Left leg.

# Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm
* Right leg
* Left leg.

# *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib)

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm
* Right leg
* Left leg.

# Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine

Some 18-month-olds have a large injection site reaction of redness and swelling from the shoulder to the elbow which parents should report to the immunisation provider or the Victorian vaccine safety service (contact details overleaf).

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm.

# Measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (chickenpox) vaccine

About 7 to 10 days after vaccination:

* fever (can be >+39 °C)
* faint red rash (not infectious)
* head cold symptoms
* swelling of salivary glands.

About 5 to 26 days after vaccination:

* Mild chickenpox-like rash.

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm.

# Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine

About 7 to 10 days after vaccination:

* fever (can be >+39 °C)
* faint red rash (not infectious)
* head cold symptoms
* swelling of salivary glands.

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm
* Right leg
* Left leg.

# Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough)-polio vaccine

Some 4-year-olds have a large injection site reaction of redness and swelling from the shoulder to the elbow which parents should report to the immunisation provider or the Victorian vaccine safety service (contact details overleaf).

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm.

# Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine

* Mild headache
* Mild nausea.

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm.

# Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine

About 7 to 10 days after vaccination:

* fever (can be >+39 °C)

About 5 to 26 days after vaccination:

* fever
* mild chickenpox-like rash.

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm.

# Meningococcal B

* Fever (can be >+39 °C)
* Bexsero® brand for children aged less than 2 years, give paracetamol in the 30 minutes before vaccination, or as soon as possible after vaccination. This should be followed by 2 more doses of paracetamol given 6 hours apart.

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm
* Right leg
* Left leg.

# Influenza vaccine

* Muscle aches.

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm
* Right leg
* Left leg.

# Zoster (shingles) vaccine

* Redness, pain, swelling and/or itch at the injection site
* Upset stomach
* Muscle aches, tiredness, chills, fever
* See below for rare reportable events.

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm.

# Polio vaccine

* Muscle aches.

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm.

# Hepatitis B vaccine

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm
* Right leg
* Left leg.

# Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine

* Fatigue
* Muscle aches.

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm
* Right leg
* Left leg.

# Other

## Vaccine given:

* Right arm
* Left arm
* Right leg
* Left leg.

# Common side effects occur soon after vaccination and last 1 to 2 days

## Vaccinations may cause the following reactions:

* Mild fever (<+38.5˚C) that doesn’t last long.
* Grizzly, unsettled, unhappy or sleepy.
* Where the needle was given: Sore, red, burning, itching or swelling for 1-2 days and/or small hard lump for a few weeks.

## What to do at home:

* If the child has a fever, do not have too many clothes or blankets on. Paracetamol can be given (check the label for correct use).
* Breastfeed more frequently and/or give extra fluids.
* Put a cold wet cloth on the injection site.

## When to seek medical advice:

* If pain and fever are not relieved by paracetamol (for example, Panadol®).
* If the reactions are not going away or getting worse or if you are worried at all, then see your doctor or go to hospital.

# Very rare vaccine side effects requiring immediate medical attention

* **Febrile convulsion:** caused by a high fever, generally occurs in children under 3 years of age.
* The child suddenly becomes pale, limp and unresponsive from 1 to 48 hours after vaccination. Soon after the child fully recovers.
* **Bowel blockage (intussusception):** occurs when a portion of the bowel slides into the next, like the pieces of a telescope. This can occur in a child in the 7 days following the 1st and 2nd dose of rotavirus vaccine. Signs of bowel blockage include:
* bouts of crying
* lethargy
* pale appearance
* vomiting
* pulling the legs up to the stomach due to abdominal pain.
* **Inflammation of a nerve in the arm (Brachial neuritis):** causes a feeling of weakness or numbness in the arm.

A severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) occurring suddenly, usually within 15 minutes of vaccine administration but can occur within hours of administration. Early signs of anaphylaxis include:

* + - * redness and or itching of the skin
      * breathing problems
      * a sense of distress.
* **Guillain-Barre syndrome:** causes ascending paralysis and sometimes numbness. In the past it has been linked with influenza vaccine either rarely if at all.
* After receiving a zoster (shingles) vaccine, the following reactions may occur:
* chickenpox-like rash within 3 to 4 weeks after vaccine administration
* feeling unwell /fever.

# QR code for the Victorian vaccine safety service websiteFor significant or unexpected side effects following immunisation

Contact the Victorian vaccine safety service on 1300 882 924.

Email the [Victorian vaccine safety service](mailto:saefvic@mcri.edu.au) <enquiries@saefvic.org.au>.

Visit the [Victorian vaccine safety service](http://www.saefvic.org.au/) website <www.saefvic.org.au> or scan the QR code.

This service does not give immediate emergency management for a side effect.

Contact Nurse-On-Call 1300 606 024 from anywhere in Victoria for free health advice 24 hours a day.

If you think your situation is an emergency, you should always call 000 or go to the hospital.

# Translating and interpreting service

Call 131 450.

# For further information:

* Contact your doctor, local council immunisation service or community pharmacist.
* Visit [Better Health Channel](https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/) <www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au>

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