

# Vaccine side effects

Please wait a minimum of 15 minutes after immunisation.

See over page for side effects common to all vaccines.

Vaccines given today \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /20\_\_\_\_. Time vaccine given \_\_\_\_\_.

Indicate injection sites by ticking appropriate box: RA=right arm, LA= left arm, RL= right leg, L L=left leg.

<b>Rotavirus vaccine</b>  Some babies will shed the rotavirus vaccine in their faeces. Hand hygiene is recommended after changing or disposing soiled nappies for the next week. By mouth	<b>Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough)-polio-hepatitis B-Hib* vaccine</b>  *Haemophilus influenzae type b  <div>RA LA</div> <div>RL LL</div>	<b>Pneumococcal vaccine</b>  <div>RA LA</div> <div>RL LL</div>	<b>Meningococcal ACWY vaccine</b>  <div>RA LA</div> <div>RL LL</div>
<b>Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine</b>  <div>RA LA</div> <div>RL LL</div>	<b>Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine</b>  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 (see over page).  <div>RA LA</div>	<b>Measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (chickenpox) vaccine</b>  About 7 to 10 days after vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fever (can be &gt;+39 °C)</li> <li>faint red rash (not infectious)</li> <li>head cold symptoms</li> <li>swelling of salivary glands.</li> </ul> About 5 to 26 days after vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mild chickenpox-like rash.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div>	<b>Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine</b>  About 7 to 10 days after vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fever (can be &gt;+39 °C)</li> <li>faint red rash (not infectious)</li> <li>head cold symptoms</li> <li>swelling of salivary glands.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div> <div>RL LL</div>
<b>Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough)-polio vaccine</b>  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).  <div>RA LA</div>	<b>Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mild headache</li> <li>mild nausea.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div>	<b>Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine</b>  About 7 to 10 days after vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fever (can be &gt;+39 °C).</li> </ul> About 5 to 26 days after vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fever</li> <li>mild chickenpox-like rash.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div>	<b>Meningococcal B vaccine</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fever (can be &gt;+39 °C)</li> <li>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.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div> <div>RL LL</div>
<b>Influenza vaccine</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>muscle aches.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div> <div>RL LL</div>	<b>Zoster (shingles) vaccine</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>redness, pain, swelling and/or itch at the injection site</li> <li>upset stomach</li> <li>muscle aches</li> <li>tiredness, chills, fever</li> <li>see over page for rare events.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div>	<b>Polio vaccine</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>muscle aches.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div>	<b>Hepatitis B vaccine</b>  <div>RA LA</div> <div>RL LL</div>
<b>RSV vaccine</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fatigue</li> <li>muscle aches.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div> <div>RL LL</div>	<b>Other</b>  <div>RA LA</div> <div>RL LL</div>		

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

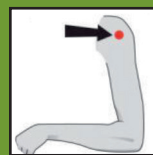
### Vaccinations may cause the following reactions:



Mild fever ( $\leq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) 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.

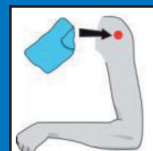
### What to do at home:



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.

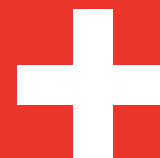
### When to seek medical advice:



If pain and fever are not relieved by paracetamol (eg. Panadol<sup>®</sup>).



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 2 to 4 weeks after vaccine administration
  - feeling unwell/fever.

**For significant or unexpected side effects following immunisation, contact the Victorian vaccine safety service:**

- call 1300 882 924
- email [enquiries@saefvic.org.au](mailto:enquiries@saefvic.org.au)
- visit [www.saefvic.org.au](http://www.saefvic.org.au)
- or scan the QR code.

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



### NURSE-ON-CALL:

**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, or visit [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/urgent-care-services](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/urgent-care-services)

To receive this publication in an accessible format email: [immunisation@health.vic.gov.au](mailto:immunisation@health.vic.gov.au)

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Available at: <https://www.health.vic.gov.au/publications/vaccine-side-effects>