

Vaccine side effects

Please wait a minimum 15 minutes after vaccination.
See over page for side effects common to all vaccines.



Department
of Health

Date vaccine given ____ / ____ / 20 ____ Time vaccine given ____

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

Rotavirus vaccine (Rotarix®)	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough)-polio-hepatitis B-Hib* vaccine (Infanrix® hexa or Vaxelis®)	Pneumococcal vaccine Child/Adolescent: (Prevenar 20®)	Meningococcal ACWY vaccine Child: (Nimenrix®) Adolescent: (MenQuadfi®)
See 'Common reactions' Vaccine virus can be shed in poo. Handwashing is important after every nappy change.	*Haemophilus influenzae type b See 'Common reactions'	See 'Common reactions'	See 'Common reactions'
By mouth	RA LA RL LL	RA LA RL LL	RA LA RL LL
Meningococcal B vaccine (Bexsero®)	Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine (MMRII® or Priorix®)	Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine (ActHIB®)	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine Child: (Infanrix® or Tripacel®)
See 'Common reactions' - Fever (can be >38.5°C) in children <2 years. - To reduce the likelihood of fever in children 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, even if no fever present.	See 'Common reactions' Reactions that may present 7–10 days (range 5–12 days) after vaccination: - fever (can be >39°C) - faint red rash (not infectious) - head cold symptoms - swelling in the neck/under the chin.	See 'Common reactions'	See 'Common reactions' Some 18-month-olds may develop a large injection site reaction, with redness and swelling from the shoulder to the elbow. These reactions usually start 24–72 hours after vaccination and resolve on their own within 1-7 days. This reaction should be reported to the immunisation provider or SAEFVIC (contact details overleaf).
RA LA RL LL	RA LA RL LL	RA LA RL LL	RA LA
Measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (chickenpox) vaccine (Priorix-Tetra®)	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough)-polio vaccine (Infanrix® IPV or Quadracel®)	Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (Gardasil®)	Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine (Varilrix®)
See 'Common reactions' Reactions that may present 7–10 days (range 5–12 days) after vaccination: - fever (can be >39°C) - faint red rash (not infectious) - head cold symptoms - swelling in the neck/under the chin. About 5 to 26 days after vaccination: - Mild chickenpox-like rash.	See 'Common reactions' Some 4-year-olds may develop a large injection site reaction, with redness and swelling from the shoulder to the elbow. These reactions usually start 24–72 hours after vaccination and resolve on their own within 1-7 days. This reaction should be reported to the immunisation provider or SAEFVIC (contact details overleaf).	See 'Common reactions' Mild nausea.	About 7 to 10 days after vaccination: - fever (can be >39°C) About 5 to 26 days after vaccination: - fever - mild chickenpox-like rash (usually lasts for less than 1 week.)
RA LA	RA LA	RA LA	RA LA
Influenza vaccine	Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine Adult: (Boostrix® or Adacel®)	Pneumococcal vaccine Adult: (Capvaxive®)	Zoster (shingles) vaccine (Shingrix®)
See 'Common reactions'	See 'Common reactions'	See 'Common reactions'	See 'Common reactions' Upset stomach
RA LA RL LL	RA LA	RA LA	RA LA
Polio vaccine Child/Adult: (IPOL®)	Hepatitis B vaccine	Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine Pregnant women: (Abrysvo®) Adults: (Arexvy®)	Other
See 'Common reactions'	See 'Common reactions'	See 'Common reactions'	
RA LA	RA LA RL LL	RA LA RL LL	RA LA RL LL

Common reactions that can 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
- Fatigue
- Grizzly, unsettled or unhappy



Needle site: sore, red, burning, itching or swelling for 1-2 days and/or small hard lump for a few weeks



- Muscle aches
- Headache

What to do at home:



If the child has a fever, do not have too many clothes or blankets on. Paracetamol or ibuprofen 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 or ibuprofen.



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.



Any rare reactions.

Very rare reactions requiring immediate medical attention

- Seizure/Febrile convulsion:** caused by a high fever, generally occurs in children under 3 years of age.
- 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.
- Hypotonic/hyporesponsive episode:** the child suddenly becomes pale, limp and unresponsive within 1 to 48 hours after vaccination. The child typically fully recovers soon after.
- Anaphylaxis:** A severe allergic reaction 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.

For significant or unexpected side effects following immunisation



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



Report online to SAEFVIC – The Victorian Vaccine Safety Service at www.saeivic.org.au/ or scan the QR code.



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



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

To receive this document in another format, email [Immunisation Program](mailto:ImmunisationProgram@health.vic.gov.au) <immunisation@health.vic.gov.au>.

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