

# Following vaccination

## what to expect and what to do



Australian Government  
Department of Health,  
Disability and Ageing

National  
Immunisation  
Program  
A joint Australian, State and Territory Government Initiative

### All vaccinations may cause the following reactions:



Mild fever that doesn't last long <38.5°C



Where the needle was given:  
Sore, red, burning, itching or swelling for 1–2 days and/or small, hard lump for a few weeks



Grizzly, unsettled, unhappy and sleepy



Teenagers/adults fainting and muscle aches

**SEE BACK PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL COMMON REACTIONS SPECIFIC TO EACH VACCINE**

### What to do at home:



If baby/child is hot don't have too many clothes or blankets on



Breast feed more frequently and/or give extra fluids



Put a cold wet cloth on the injection site if it is sore



For fever or pain give paracetamol. Follow instructions on the packaging

### When to seek medical advice:

**See your health professional, or go to the hospital if:**



Pain and fever are not relieved by paracetamol (eg. Panadol®)



The reactions are bad, not going away or getting worse or if you are worried at all



Any of the rare reactions below are experienced

### How to report an adverse reaction:

Significant events that occur following immunisation should be reported to your health professional. Alternatively you can report directly to the Therapeutic Goods Administration ([www.tga.com.au](http://www.tga.com.au)) or by phone to the Adverse Events Medical Line on **1300 633 424**. Calls are answered by a registered pharmacist. You can also report adverse events following vaccination to your state or territory health service.



### Rare reactions requiring immediate medical attention

As with any medication, on rare occasions, an individual may experience a severe reaction. Seek medical attention if any of the below are experienced and inform of recent vaccination.

#### Anaphylaxis

- A severe allergic reaction which occurs suddenly, usually within 15 minutes, however anaphylaxis can occur within hours of a vaccine being administered. Early signs of anaphylaxis include redness and/or itching of the skin, swelling (hives), breathing difficulties, persistent cough, hoarse voice and a sense of distress.

#### Intussusception (relates to rotavirus vaccine)

- This is an uncommon form of bowel obstruction where one segment of the bowel slides into the next, much like the pieces of a telescope.
- There is a very small risk of this occurring in a baby in the first week after receiving the first dose of rotavirus vaccine, and a smaller risk after the second vaccine dose.
- The baby cries more than usual, looks pale, gets very irritable and pulls legs up to the abdomen because of pain.

#### Seizure

- Some young children (especially aged 1–3 years) are more prone to seizures when experiencing a high fever caused by an infection or after a vaccine. The seizure usually lasts approximately 20 seconds and very rarely more than 2 minutes.

### Where can I get more information?

Contact your health professional

Visit [health.gov.au/immunisation](http://health.gov.au/immunisation)

Contact your state or territory health service

### Practice contact details:

Indicate injection sites by circling appropriate box: **LA**=Left Arm, **RA**=Right Arm, **LL**=Left Leg, **RL**=Right Leg

Meningococcal B vaccine (Bexsero®)	Measles, mumps, rubella vaccine (MMRII® or Priorix®)	Measles, mumps, rubella, chickenpox vaccine (Priorix-Tetra®)	Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough vaccine Children (Infanrix® or Tripacel®) Adults and adolescents (Boostrix® or Adacel®)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> <li>Fever (&gt;38.5°C) is common in young children receiving this vaccine. Paracetamol will reduce the likelihood of fever. For children less than 2 years of age, a dose of paracetamol is recommended 30 minutes before vaccination or as soon as possible afterwards. Followed by two more doses 6 hours apart even if there is no fever.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> <li>Reactions that may be present 7 to 10 days after vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fever over 39°C</li> <li>rash (not infectious)</li> <li>head cold, runny nose, cough, puffy eyes</li> <li>swelling in the neck /under the chin.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> <li>Reactions that may be present 7 to 10 days after vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fever over 39°C</li> <li>rash (not infectious)</li> <li>head cold, runny nose, cough, puffy eyes</li> <li>swelling in the neck /under the chin.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Reactions 5–26 days after vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mild chickenpox like rash (may be infectious, seek medical advice).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> <li>Very rarely, large injection site reactions (&gt;50 mm) including limb swelling may occur (with the 4th or 5th dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine in children). These reactions usually start within 24–72 hours after vaccination, and resolve spontaneously within 3–5 days. If this reaction extends beyond one or both joints, seek medical advice.</li> </ul>
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Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, polio vaccine (Infanrix® IPV or Quadracel®)	Shingles vaccine (Shingrix®)	Pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax 23®)	Rotavirus vaccine (Rotarix®)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> <li>Large injection site reaction of redness and swelling from the shoulder to the elbow. If this reaction extends beyond one or both joints, seek medical advice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> <li>Reactions that may be present 1 to 3 days after vaccination: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>tiredness</li> <li>headache</li> <li>fever</li> <li>muscle aches</li> <li>gastrointestinal symptoms.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> <li>Large injection site reaction with redness and swelling, more common after the second or subsequent dose of this vaccine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> <li>Vaccine virus can be shed in poo, particularly after the first dose. Handwashing is important after every nappy change.</li> <li>Intussusception <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>see 'rare reactions'</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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Hepatitis A vaccine (Vaqta® Paediatric)	Hepatitis B vaccine (Engerix® B Paediatric)	Diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B, polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine (Infanrix® hexa or Vaxelis®)	Pneumococcal vaccine (Prevenar 13®)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> <li>Rash</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> </ul>
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Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (Nimenrix®)	Haemophilus influenzae type b vaccine (ActHIB®)	Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine (Gardasil®9)	Influenza vaccine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> <li>Mild headache</li> <li>Mild nausea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> </ul>
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Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) (Abrysvo®)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See 'Common reactions'</li> </ul>			
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