





# Vaccine side effects

Please wait a minimum of 15 minutes after immunisation

Vaccines given today \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /20\_\_\_\_ indicated below by tick in boxes. Time vaccine given \_\_\_\_\_.

| Rotavirus vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough-polio-hepatitis B-Hib* vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Pneumococcal vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Meningococcal ACWY vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Some babies will shed the rotavirus in their faeces.<br><br><div>By mouth</div>                                                                                                                                                                               | * <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b<br><div>RA LA<br/>RL LL</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <div>RA LA<br/>RL LL</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <div>RA LA<br/>RL LL</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hib)                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Measles-mumps-rubella-chickenpox vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Measles-mumps-rubella vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <div>RA LA<br/>RL LL</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 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).<br><div>RA LA</div>           | About 7 to 10 days after vaccination:<br><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:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mild chickenpox-like rash.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div> | About 7 to 10 days after vaccination:<br><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<br/>RL LL</div> |
| Diphtheria-tetanus-whooping cough-polio vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Chickenpox vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Diphtheria-tetanus 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).<br><div>RA LA</div> | About 7 to 10 days after vaccination:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fever (can be &gt;39 °C)</li> </ul> About 5 to 26 days after vaccination:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>fever</li> <li>mild chickenpox-like rash.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>mild headache</li> <li>mild nausea.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <div>RA LA</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Influenza vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Polio vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Hepatitis B vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Zoster (shingles) vaccine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>muscle aches.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA<br/>RL LL</div>                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>muscle aches.</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div>                                                                                                                                                                                          | <div>RA LA<br/>RL LL</div>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redness, pain, swelling and/or itch at the injection site</li> </ul> <div>RA LA</div>                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
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## 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 baby/child has a fever do not have too many clothes or blankets on. Paracetamol can be given (check the label for correct use).



Breast feed 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®).



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 baby suddenly becomes pale, limp and unresponsive from 1 to 48 hours after vaccination. Soon after the baby 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 baby in the 7 days following the 1st and 2nd dose of rotavirus vaccine. Signs of bowel blockage include:
  - bouts of crying
  - pale appearance
  - pulling the legs up to the stomach.
- 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.

**For significant or unexpected side effects following immunisation, you can contact the Victorian vaccine safety service on 1300 882 924 / [saefvic@mcri.edu.au](mailto:saefvic@mcri.edu.au) / [www.saefvic.org.au](http://www.saefvic.org.au)**  
**This service does not give immediate emergency management for a side effect.**

**Translating and interpreting service. Call 131 450**



**For further information:** Contact your doctor or your local council immunisation service.

**Or visit:** [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

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

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Available at: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/factsheets/vaccine-side-effects>  
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