

Rotavirus Vaccine

Rotavirus

The **Rotavirus vaccine** is part of the routine Yukon Children's Immunization Program. **Rotavirus** is a very common infection that causes severe diarrhea and vomiting in infants and young children. About 95% of children will have at least one rotavirus infection before the age of 5. The virus spreads easily through direct contact or contact with contaminated objects or food. This includes contact with the stools of an infected child, such as the handling of diapers.

Three doses of the **Rotavirus vaccine** administered at 2 months, 4 months and 6 months old are needed for full protection. It is very important to receive the immunizations on time.

Rotavirus can cause:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Abdominal pain

Complications may lead to:

- Dehydration
- Emergency care or hospitalization to treat dehydration, including intravenous fluids
- Prolonged and more severe illness in children with weakened immune systems

Why is the Rotavirus vaccine recommended?

This vaccine is the best protection against rotavirus and its complications. The vaccine consists of a few drops of liquid given orally, it is not injected. The rotavirus vaccine is very effective and safe. Most babies do not have any side effects after the rotavirus immunization. Getting your child vaccinated against rotavirus also helps protect others.

Possible side effects of the vaccine:

Most babies do not have any reactions after they get the rotavirus vaccine. Some may develop a fever, irritability, fatigue, or digestive problems. These are generally mild and last 1-2 days. There is a small increased risk of intussusception of between 1 and 7 cases per 100,000 doses in the 7 days following both the 1st and 2nd doses.

Side effects are easily relieved by administering acetaminophen or ibuprofen for temperatures 38.5°C or higher. See a doctor if your child has intense crying, swollen tummy, frequent vomiting or blood in their stools.

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any immunization because there is a rare possibility of developing a severe allergic reaction which is treatable at the clinic. This happens to fewer than 1 in 1 million people. If it happens after you leave the clinic, call 911 or the local emergency number.

