

Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV)

Poliomyelitis (Polio)

The inactivated polio vaccine, also called IPV, is part of Yukon's routine immunization schedule.

What is polio?

Polio, also called poliomyelitis, is caused by the poliovirus.

Polio spreads through contact with the stool of an infected person. It can also spread through contaminated food or water.

Most people who get polio have no symptoms or only mild illness. In some cases, the virus can affect the nervous system and cause permanent paralysis, especially in the legs.

Severe cases can lead to breathing problems or death.

Thanks to vaccination, polio has been eliminated in Canada. However, it still circulates in some countries. This is why it is important to stay up to date with immunizations.

What is the IPV vaccine?

- The IPV vaccine is an inactivated vaccine. This means it does not contain a live virus.
- The vaccine helps protect against polio by helping your immune system make antibodies against the poliovirus. These antibodies help protect you if you are exposed to the virus in the future.

Why the vaccine is recommended

- The polio vaccine is very effective.
- Vaccination helps prevent serious complications from polio, including paralysis, meningitis and long-term disability.

Who should get the IPV vaccine?

- The polio vaccine is part of the routine immunization schedule for infants and children.
- The IPV vaccine is primarily used for catch-up doses for older children, adolescents and adults who are not fully immunized.
- Talk to your health care provider or local health centre if you are not sure whether you or your child should get the vaccine.

Possible reactions to the vaccine

Common reactions following immunization are usually mild, last one to two days and may include:

- redness, tenderness or swelling at the injection site;
- a mild fever;
- a headache;
- fatigue; or
- digestive symptoms.

Side effects are generally easy to manage. You can apply a cold, damp compress to the injection site. If needed, a pain reliever such as acetaminophen may help. Speak with your healthcare provider if symptoms are severe or last longer than 48 hours.

After you get the vaccine

Stay at the clinic for 15 minutes after getting the vaccine.

Severe allergic reactions are very rare. Clinic staff are trained to treat them right away.

If you have symptoms of a severe reaction after leaving the clinic, call 911 or your local emergency number right away.