

Rotavirus vaccine

The rotavirus vaccine is part of the routine Yukon Immunization Schedule for infants.

What is rotavirus?

Rotavirus is a very common viral infection that causes severe diarrhea and vomiting in infants and young children. Nearly all children will have at least one rotavirus infection before the age of five. The virus spreads easily through direct contact or contact with contaminated objects, food or the stool of an infected child (for example, during diaper changes). Rotavirus infections can cause a fever, vomiting, abdominal pain and severe diarrhea. Complications may include dehydration, which can require emergency care or hospitalization for treatment with fluids, including intravenous fluids.

What is the rotavirus vaccine?

The rotavirus vaccine helps protect young children against rotavirus.

The vaccine is given by mouth. It is not given by needle.

It is a live, weakened vaccine. This means it uses a weakened form of the virus to help your child's immune system build protection.

Why is the rotavirus vaccine recommended?

This vaccine is the best protection against rotavirus and its complications. The vaccine is safe and highly effective. Most babies do not have any side effects after receiving the immunization. Getting your child vaccinated also helps protect others in the community.

Who should get the vaccine?

Infants as part of their routine immunization schedule.

What are the side effects?

Most babies do not have any reactions after getting the rotavirus vaccine.

Some babies may have mild symptoms, such as:

- mild fever;
- irritability;
- tiredness; or
- mild stomach upset.

These symptoms are usually mild and go away on their own.

There is a very small increased risk of intussusception after getting the vaccine. Intussusception is a bowel blockage. This risk is highest in the first week after vaccination.

Get medical care right away if your baby has:

- intense crying;
- a swollen belly;
- repeated vomiting;
- blood in their stool; or
- unusual weakness or tiredness.

After your child gets the vaccine

- Your child should 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 your child has symptoms of a severe reaction after leaving the clinic, call 911 or your local emergency number right away.

**For more information, visit
yukonimmunization.ca.**

