

Rare reactions

As with any medication, on rare occasions, an individual may experience a severe reaction.

Seizure (also known as convulsion or fit)

- Some children are more prone to seizures when experiencing a high fever. The seizure usually lasts approximately 20 seconds and very rarely more than 2 minutes.

Intussusception* (relates to rotavirus)

- It 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 one to seven days after receiving the first dose of **rotavirus vaccine**, and a smaller risk after the second dose of rotavirus vaccine. The baby has bouts of crying, looks pale, gets very irritable and pulls the legs up to the abdomen because of pain.

Anaphylaxis

- A severe allergic reaction which occurs suddenly, usually within 15 minutes, however anaphylaxis can occur within hours of vaccine administration. 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.

What you can do

Seek medical advice **immediately** by:

- calling **healthdirect Australia** on **1800 022 222**, who will advise you on what to do next.

The advice may include:

- calling an ambulance (000) to get immediate assistance**
- seeing your family doctor (GP)

All vaccines used in Australia have been through a safety testing process then licensed by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). This is to ensure that each vaccine is safe and proven to be effective based on clinical trials. You can obtain more information about vaccines and reactions to vaccines from the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) www.ncirs.usyd.edu.au or Immunise Australia website www.immunise.health.gov.au

Seek medical advice immediately by:

- calling **healthdirect Australia** on **1800 022 222**, who will advise you on what to do next
- the advice may include **calling an ambulance (000)** to get immediate assistance
- see your family doctor (GP).

Any serious or unexpected adverse event (reaction) following vaccination (AEFI) should be reported to the Department of Health by:

- using the Western Australian Vaccination Safety Surveillance (WAVSS) system at **www.wavss.health.wa.gov.au** (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)
- or downloading and completing a WAVSS adverse reaction reporting form and returning by fax, post or email:
 - Fax: (08) 9426 9408 (24 hours, 7 days a week)
 - Post: Central Immunisation Clinic, PO Box 8172, Perth Business Centre, WA 6849
 - Email: wavss@health.wa.gov.au
- or contacting the Central Immunisation Clinic 9321 1312 (8:30am – 4:30pm) to report your concerns.



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Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Useful information following vaccination

Vaccinations, like any medication may cause side effects. This fact sheet explains common reactions that may be experienced after receiving a vaccine and recommended actions to take if you are concerned.

You are requested to remain at the centre for 15 minutes following vaccination to ensure you and/or your child is within easy access of medical care in the unlikely event of a severe or rare reaction.

Common reactions	What you can do
Most vaccines can cause mild reactions; these should be explained to you by your immunisation provider.	Side effects after vaccination are usually mild and short lasting and do not need special treatment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local reaction (pain, redness and/or swelling around injection site) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place a cold damp cloth (cold compress) over the affected area to give relief. Paracetamol (not aspirin) may be used to ease the discomfort.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild temperature or fever 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor the temperature regularly (a fever is above 38.5 °C). Extra fluids are recommended (e.g. water, milk). Keep cool by not overdressing. Paracetamol (not aspirin) may be used to help reduce the temperature.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irritability, decreased appetite, sleepiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These symptoms are common in children and usually disappear over 24–48 hours. It does not usually require any specific treatment.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vomiting and diarrhoea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extra fluids are recommended (e.g. water, milk). Continue to breastfeed, giving small frequent feeds. Wash hands thoroughly after changing soiled nappies to prevent any spread.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A small lump may appear at the injection site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No treatment is usually required and it will disappear in a few weeks.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fainting may occur, and is usually seen in adolescents and adults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone experiencing light-headedness before or after vaccination is advised to lie down until symptoms subside.

First name: _____ Last name: _____

Site Left Right	Disease and vaccine	Vaccine-specific side effects
Oral (by mouth)	Rotavirus <input type="checkbox"/> Rotateq <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild temperature Vomiting and diarrhoea can occur up to 7 days after vaccination Vaccine virus can be shed in the stools, particularly after the first dose. Handwashing is important after nappy changes. Intussusception* – see 'rare reactions'
arm arm leg leg	Pneumococcal conjugated vaccine <input type="checkbox"/> Prevenar 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild temperature Pain at the injection site Redness and swelling around injection site
arm arm leg leg	Diphtheria/tetanus/pertussis containing vaccines <input type="checkbox"/> Infanrix Hexa (+Polio, Hib, Hep B) <input type="checkbox"/> Quadracel (+Polio) <input type="checkbox"/> Adacel <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions' Very rarely, large injection site reactions (>50 mm) including limb swelling may occur (usually with the 4th or 5th dose of a tetanus containing vaccine). 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
arm arm leg leg	Haemophilus influenza type b (Hib) <input type="checkbox"/> Hiberix <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions'
arm arm leg leg	Hepatitis A <input type="checkbox"/> Vaqta <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions' Rash
arm arm leg leg	Meningococcal C <input type="checkbox"/> Neisvac-C <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions' Irritable, crying, unsettled and generally unhappy Loss of appetite Headache (older children/adults)
arm arm leg leg	Measles/mumps/rubella <input type="checkbox"/> Priorix <input type="checkbox"/> MMR II <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions' <p>The following reactions may occur 5–12 days after vaccination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High fever over 39 °C lasting 2–3 days Faint red rash (not infectious) Runny nose, cough and/or puffy eyes Swelling of salivary glands Drowsiness or tiredness <i>Thrombocytopenia</i> (low platelet count – about 1 in 30,000), and <i>Encephalitis</i> (inflammation of the brain – about 1 in 3 million) are two very rare reactions
arm arm leg leg	Hib-MenCCV <input type="checkbox"/> Menitorix <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions' Loss of appetite

Date vaccines received: _____

Site Left Right	Disease and vaccine	Vaccine-specific side effects
arm arm leg leg	Varicella (chickenpox) <input type="checkbox"/> Varilrix <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions' High fever over 39 °C <p>The following reactions may occur 5–26 days after vaccination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mild chickenpox-like rash (2–5 spots) usually at injection site, may also appear on other parts of the body <p><i>If those vaccinated develop a rash, they should cover the rash and avoid contact with people who have impaired immunity for the duration of the rash.</i></p>
arm arm leg leg	Measles/mumps/rubella/varicella <input type="checkbox"/> Priorix-Tetra <input type="checkbox"/> ProQuad <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions' <p>The following reactions may occur 5–26 days after vaccination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High fever over 39 °C lasting 2–3 days Faint red rash (not infectious) Runny nose, cough and/or puffy eyes Swelling of salivary glands Drowsiness or tiredness Mild chickenpox-like rash (2–5 spots) usually at injection site may also appear on other parts of the body <i>Thrombocytopenia</i> (low platelet count – about 1 in 30,000), and <i>Encephalitis</i> (inflammation of the brain – about 1 in 3 million) are two very rare reactions <p><i>If those vaccinated develop a rash, they should cover the rash and avoid contact with people who have impaired immunity for the duration of the rash.</i></p>
arm arm leg leg	Hepatitis B <input type="checkbox"/> HB Vax II (adult) <input type="checkbox"/> HB Vax II (paediatric) <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions' Dizziness, sweating, muscle pain, insomnia and headache
arm arm leg leg	Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine <input type="checkbox"/> Pneumovax 23 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions' Muscle pain Soreness, redness and swelling at the injection site, more commonly experienced after the 2nd dose.
arm arm leg leg	Influenza <input type="checkbox"/> Vaxigrip <input type="checkbox"/> Vaxigrip Junior <input type="checkbox"/> Inluvac <input type="checkbox"/> Fluvax <input type="checkbox"/> Fluarix <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions' Drowsiness or tiredness Muscle aches Guillain-Barre Syndrome (ascending paralysis) Very rare in adults (1 in 1,000,000)
arm arm leg leg	Human papillomavirus <input type="checkbox"/> Gardasil <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions' Mild headache Mild nausea
arm arm leg leg	Polio <input type="checkbox"/> IPOL <input type="checkbox"/> Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See 'common reactions'