



Public Health Services

Tetanus, diphtheria and Polio Vaccine (Td-Polio)

What is tetanus?

- Tetanus is caused by a bacteria which produces a poison (toxin).
- Tetanus spores are spread through a wound, bite or burn.
- Tetanus causes painful tightening of the muscles, usually all over the body.
- About 10% of people with tetanus will die.

What is diphtheria?

- Diphtheria is caused by a bacteria which produces a poison (toxin).
- The bacteria is spread by nasal droplets.
- The toxin damages the lining of the nose and throat, making breathing difficult or impossible.
- It can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure and even death.
- About 10% of people with diphtheria will die.

What is polio?

- Polio is a very infectious disease caused by a virus.
- Polio is spread by eating or drinking food or water contaminated by human feces. It can also be spread by human

saliva. It can destroy nerve cells in the spinal cord that control muscles. When the nerve cell dies, the muscle becomes weak or paralyzed. The nerve damage is permanent.

- 80-90% of people with polio have mild or no symptoms. 10-20% have fever, severe headache, stiff neck and back and deep muscle pain.
- Less than 1% of people with polio will have paralysis.
- 1-4% of people with polio will die
- About 20%-80% of people who had polio will develop post-polio syndrome (a deterioration of the originally affected muscles).

What does Td-Polio vaccine contain?

- Td-Polio vaccine contains neomycin, polymixin B, 2-phenoxyethanol, formaldehyde, aluminum phosphate.
- Td-Polio packaging does not contain latex.

Who should receive the vaccine?

- Anyone over 7 years of age who has had inadequate tetanus, diphtheria and polio immunization.
- Travellers to a country where polio is a risk.

Who should not receive the vaccine?

- Anyone under 7 years of age (use DTaP-Polio vaccine).
- Anyone who has had a life-threatening allergic reaction to any of the vaccine components.
- People with moderate to severe illness may have to delay immunization.

When should the vaccine be given?

- On the recommendation of a public health nurse.

How is the vaccine given?

- By injection into a muscle
- May be safely given with other vaccines.

How effective is the vaccine?

- More than 95% of people who receive the vaccine are protected within 4 weeks.

What might be felt after receiving the vaccine?

- Mild pain, redness or swelling at the injection site can occur.
- Mild fever, headache, malaise, tiredness or dizziness may occur
- Rarely, severe local or systemic reactions (eg. neurological complications) can occur in adults, especially if they have been over-immunized.

Your immunization information will be recorded in a computerized system known as the Saskatchewan Immunization Management Systems (SIMS).

Information collected in SIMS may be used to:

- *manage immunization records*
- *notify you if you or your child needs an immunization*
- *and monitor how well vaccines work in preventing vaccine preventable diseases.*

Your immunization records may also be shared with health care professionals in order to provide public health services; assist with diagnosis and treatment; and to control the spread of vaccine preventable diseases.

For more information contact Public Health Services at:			
North Health Centre: 655-4700	Our Neighbourhood Health Centre 655-4950	South East Health Centre: 655-4730	West Winds Primary Health Centre: 655-4275