



July 2011

Community and Health Services Department



Quadracel[®] Vaccine

(Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio Vaccine)

Quadracel[®] is a vaccine that protects against four serious infections – tetanus, diphtheria, poliomyelitis, and pertussis

- It is given to children between the ages of four and six years
- One dose of the vaccine is required and is given as an injection in the upper arm

Side effects may include:

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
 - Fever, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, irritability
- Severe side effects are rare.

People should delay or avoid this immunization if they:

- Have a fever or are fighting a recent infection
- Have an allergy to formaldehyde, aluminum or any of the following antibiotics: neomycin, polymyxin B
- Are immune suppressed
- Are over the age of seven years

Tetanus

- Is also known as lockjaw
- Causes painful, prolonged muscle spasms of the jaw, neck, arms, leg and stomach
- Can lead to broken bones, suffocation, or death
- Is caused by tetanus bacteria that enter the body through a cut or wound in the skin. These bacteria are found in the environment, usually in soil, dust or manure

Diphtheria

- Mainly affects the nose and throat area
- Causes sore throat, fever, loss of appetite
- Causes a thick, grey membrane to form in the throat, and makes the underlying tissue in the neck become red, swollen and painful
- Can lead to breathing problems, airway blockage, difficulty swallowing, pneumonia, brain damage or death
- Spreads easily from person to person through droplets expelled from the mouth, nose and throat of an infected person (e.g., through talking, coughing or sneezing)

Information sheet

For further information, please call:

York Region Health Connection 1-800-361-5653

TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca

Pertussis

- Is also known as whooping cough
- Causes a cough that can last for six to 12 weeks, making eating, drinking and sleeping difficult
- Can lead to breathing difficulties, pneumonia, brain damage or death, especially in infants
- Is contagious for seven days prior to coughing
- Spreads easily from person to person through droplets from the mouth, nose and throat of an infected person (through talking, coughing or sneezing)

Poliomyelitis

- Is also known as polio
- Is a serious disease that can result in permanent paralysis
- Has been eliminated in the Western hemisphere, but is still causing severe illness in other parts of the world
- Can cause symptoms such as fever, feeling unwell, headache, nausea and vomiting, extreme muscle pains and spasms, stiffness of the neck and back, weakness, severe fatigue
- Is caused by a virus that is present in the feces and the throat secretions of infected people
- Is spread through eating or drinking food or water that is contaminated by the feces of an infected person.
- Can also be spread through mouth and throat secretions (e.g., by kissing, sharing eating utensils)

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