



July 2011

Community and Health Services Department



Pediacel[®] Vaccine

(Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio and Hib Vaccine)

Pediacel[®] is a vaccine that protects against five serious infections – tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, poliomyelitis and Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

- It is used for infants and toddlers
- Four doses of vaccine are required for complete protection, and are given at two, four, six, and 18 months of age
- Infants under 12 months receive the injection in the thigh; children over one year old receive it in the upper arm

Side effects may include:

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
 - Fever, fussiness, lack of appetite, crying
- Severe side effects are rare.

People should delay or avoid this immunization if they:

- Have a fever or are fighting an infection, unless it is a simple cold, or other minor illness
- Have an allergy to aluminum, formaldehyde or any of the following antibiotics: neomycin, streptomycin, or polymyxin B
- Have weakened immune systems due to illness or medication
- Have unstable neurological conditions, including seizures
- Are over the age of seven years

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

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

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)

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, through talking, coughing or sneezing

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib)

- Is an infection that mostly affects young, unimmunized children
- Commonly starts in the nose and throat and can spread to the ears, sinuses, eyes, airways or lungs
- Causes fever, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting
- Can also invade the bloodstream and affect the lungs, heart, bones, joints and skin
- Can lead to meningitis, brain damage, deafness, pneumonia or death
- Spreads from person to person through droplets from the mouth, nose and throat of an infected person, such as through coughing, sneezing, kissing or sharing drinks

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

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