

POLIO

Vaccine Fact Sheet

(IMOVAX® Polio Vaccine)

WHAT IS POLIOMYELITIS (POLIO) AND HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Polio is a serious disease, caused by a virus, that can lead to nerve damage or paralysis for life. The virus is spread by contaminated food or water. Canada has been polio free for 20 years but as polio exists in other countries, it can be imported to Canada.

HOW CAN POLIO BE PREVENTED?

- **Vaccination is the best protection against polio.** The vaccine is safe and effective
- Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) is given from two months of age onwards to protect individuals against polio disease. Combination vaccines that contain polio vaccine are routinely given to infants and children
- IPV vaccine may be given to children and adults with an incomplete series to bring them up to date with their immunization
- Proof of vaccination against polio, or a valid exemption, is required by law for all children attending school in Ontario
- The vaccine is also recommended for people who are travelling to countries where risk of polio still exists

WHAT ARE THE POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS OF THIS VACCINE?

- Redness, swelling or pain at the injection site are the most common
- Fever, chills, headache and fatigue

WHO SHOULD AVOID THIS IMMUNIZATION?

Anyone who:

- Has a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold; delay vaccine until you are feeling better
- Had a severe allergic (anaphylactic) reaction to a previous dose of this vaccine
- Has an allergy to any vaccine component such as, neomycin, streptomycin or polymyxin B

WHO SHOULD CONSULT THEIR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER BEFORE VACCINATION?

People with complicated medical issues or previous severe reactions to vaccines.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675

TTY: Dial 711

york.ca/immunizations

