

Ontario Rotavirus Immunization Program Transitioning to Rotarix® (Rot-1)

Update to York Region health care providers as of July 22, 2021

On August 1, 2021, Ontario will transition from the pentavalent rotavirus vaccine RotaTeq® to the monovalent rotavirus vaccine Rotarix® for the publicly funded infant rotavirus immunization program. All infants in Ontario are eligible for rotavirus vaccination starting as early as six weeks of age. Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule recommends the first dose of rotavirus vaccine be administered at two months of age.

This change in rotavirus vaccine in Ontario is a result of the federal vaccine purchasing program. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends routine infant rotavirus vaccination with either RotaTeq® or Rotarix® and does not preferentially recommend one product over the other. Both are live attenuated vaccines that are given orally.

The two vaccine products differ in their administration schedule. **RotaTeq® is a three-dose series** given at two, four, and six months. The last dose of RotaTeq® should be given before 32 weeks of age. **Rotarix® is a two-dose series** given at two and four months. The last dose of Rotarix® should be given **before 25 weeks of age**.

All infants born on or after June 1, 2021 who are due for their first dose of rotavirus vaccine in August 2021, at 2 months of age, should be started with Rotarix®. **Infants born before June 1, 2021** and who have started their series with RotaTeq® should complete their rotavirus immunization series with RotaTeq®.

NACI recommends that whenever possible, infants should start and complete their series with the same product. Based on current inventory levels in Ontario, the Ministry anticipates that the current RotaTeq® provincial supply should support completion of the three-dose RotaTeq® schedule for infants born before June 1, 2021.

When RotaTeq® is not available for infants who started their series with this product, or if the product used for previous dose(s) is unknown, Rotarix® can be used to complete the series for a total of three doses of rotavirus vaccine. The final dose of Rotarix® must be given before 25 weeks of age while observing the minimum 4 weeks interval between doses.

Rotarix® is now available for ordering from York Region Public Health with the attached, updated vaccine order form. For more information on the rotavirus vaccines and the transition from RotaTeq® to Rotarix®, please see the Q&A document from the Ministry of Health following this message.

If you have any questions, please contact York Region Public Health by phone at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033 or by email at vaccineinventory@york.ca.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033
york.ca/vaccineinventory



Publicly Funded Vaccine Order Form

SECTION 1 – INSTRUCTIONS FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER

1. Complete all mandatory fields (*) – missing information will result in delays to your order.
2. Maintain no more than one month supply of any vaccine. Do not overstock your fridge.
3. Entire current fridge inventory amount must be entered. Please enter "0" if there is no vaccine.
4. Orders must include the most current five business days of refrigeration temperature logs.
5. Send both pages to avoid delays in processing to **905-830-0578** or **vaccineinventory@york.ca**
6. Complete orders will be processed in approximately three to four business days.

SECTION 2 – HEALTHCARE PROVIDER INFORMATION *Holding Point Code: YOR_NW

*Healthcare provider/Practice name

*Order date (mm/dd/yyyy)

*Number of immunizer(s)

*Type of practice: General practice Pediatrician Other:

*Number of fridge(s) *Type(s) of fridge: Bar Domestic Purpose-built

*Contact person *Phone number

*Fax *Email

Unit number *Street number *Street address

*City/Town *Postal code

SECTION 3 – PICK UP LOCATIONS

***Select Pick Up Location – pick up hours may vary. Please visit York.ca/vaccineinventory or call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033 for information on pick up times.**

 Newmarket
17150 Yonge Street

 Richmond Hill
50 High Tech Road

 Georgina
24262 Woodbine Avenue

 Vaughan
9060 Jane Street

 Markham
4261 Highway 7 East

SECTION 4 – ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

By submitting this order, I verify on behalf of the practice that the refrigerator storing publicly-funded vaccines, at the location listed above, maintains temperatures between +2.0°C to +8.0°C; meets MOHLTC Vaccine Storage and Handling Protocols and Guidelines; maximum, minimum, and current temperatures are recorded at least twice daily. Furthermore, I verify that no more than one month supply of vaccine is stored at the location listed above; red-dotted and short-dated vaccines are used first; expired vaccines are never administered and are returned as wastage; a review of vaccine inventory and checking for expired vaccines has been completed before placing orders; and all due diligence has been taken to prevent the wastage of publicly-funded vaccines. I understand that I am required to maintain accurate temperature logs that must be kept onsite for a minimum of two years and made accessible to York Region Public Health upon request. Upon vaccine pick-up, I will have the necessary materials for the safe transport of publicly-funded vaccines including properly conditioned hard sided, insulated container, digital temperature monitoring device, and appropriate packaging material.

*Print Name

*Signature

*Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Complete and submit pages 1 and 2

SECTION 5 – VACCINE INVENTORY AND REQUEST

Trade Name(s) (Subject to availability)	Vaccine	Disease(s)	Entire Current Vaccine Inventory Number in Doses	Number of Doses Requested
Pediacel®	DTaP-IPV-Hib	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis, Polio, Haemophilus influenzae type b		
Menjugate® Liquid Neisvac-C®	Men-C-C	Meningococcal Conjugate C		
Priorix® MMR® II	MMR	Measles, Mumps, Rubella		
Priorix-Tetra® ProQuad®	MMRV	Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella		
Prevnar® 13	Pneu-C-13	Pneumococcal Conjugate 13		
Pneumovax® 23	Pneu-P-23	Pneumococcal Polysaccharide 23		
Tubersol®	TB Mantoux	Tuberculin Purified Protein Derivative (Limit 20 doses)		
Td ADSORBED®	Td	Tetanus, Diphtheria		
Adacel® Boostrix®	Tdap	Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular pertussis		
Adacel-Polio® Boostrix-Polio®	Tdap-IPV	Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular pertussis, Polio		
Varivax® III Varilrix®	Var	Varicella		
Shingrix®	HZ	Herpes Zoster		

Please refer to the [Ontario Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules](#) for further details regarding eligibility and recommended dosing intervals.

SECTION 6 – ROTAVIRUS VACCINE INVENTORY AND REQUEST

Trade Name	Vaccine	Eligibility	Entire Current Vaccine Inventory Number in Doses	Number of Doses Requested
Rotarix®	Rot-1	All infants born on or after June 1st, 2021 should be started with Rotarix®.		
RotaTeq®	Rot-5	Infants born before June 1st, 2021 and started their series with RotaTeq® should complete the series with RotaTeq®, if available.		

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Printed by/date:

Picked by/date:

Entered by/date:

Packed by/date:

Sorted by/date:

Audited by/date:

Ministry of Health

Updates to the Ontario Rotavirus Immunization Program: Product change to Rotarix[®] vaccine

Questions and Answers for Health Care Providers

Starting August 1, 2021, the Ontario publicly funded rotavirus immunization program will transition to the Rotarix[®] vaccine from the RotaTeq[®] vaccine.

This questions and answers sheet for health care providers provides basic information only. It is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. For more information about the Rotarix[®] vaccine, please refer to the product monograph authorized by Health Canada.

What is rotavirus disease?

Rotavirus (RV) disease is a common cause of gastroenteritis in infants and young children, characterized by an acute onset of vomiting, fever, abdominal pain and watery diarrhea which may last three to eight days. In infants and young children, rotavirus infection can lead to severe dehydration.

Before the introduction of the publicly funded rotavirus immunization program, almost all children were infected by 5 years of age.

What RV vaccine products are available for use in Canada?

RV vaccine is indicated for active immunization against rotavirus gastroenteritis in infants. Two rotavirus vaccines are authorized for use in Canada:

Rot-1, Rotarix[®], live, oral, monovalent, attenuated, human rotavirus vaccine manufactured by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Inc.

Rot-5, RotaTeq[®], a live, oral, pentavalent rotavirus vaccine manufactured by Merck Canada Inc.

Are the two RV vaccine products considered equal?

Although prevalence of RV serotypes varies across regions, both RV vaccines provide protection against the predominant strains in North America. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends either vaccine, without a preferential recommendation for one over the other.

Why is Ontario changing the RV vaccine product used in the publicly funded program?

Ontario participates in the federal vaccine purchasing program. During the most recent vaccine contracting process, a split contract with GSK Inc. and Merck Canada Inc. was awarded. Based on the contracts awarded Ontario will be receiving the Rotarix® manufactured by GSK Inc.

Who is eligible to receive the publicly funded RV vaccine in Ontario? When should the first dose of RV vaccine be administered?

All infants in Ontario are eligible to receive the RV vaccine, with the first dose typically given at 2 months of age according to the Publicly Funded Immunization Schedules for Ontario. The RV vaccine can be given as early as six weeks of age according to the product monographs.

Infants born on or after June 1, 2021 should start their rotavirus vaccine series with the Rotarix® vaccine. This infant cohort will receive their first dose of Rotarix® in August 2021 at 2 months of age.

How is RV vaccine administered? What is the recommended immunization schedule for both RotaTeq® and Rotarix®?

Rotarix® is given orally as a 2-dose series, routinely at 2 and 4 months of age. The minimum interval between the first dose and second dose is 4 weeks.

RotaTeq® given orally as a 3-dose series, routinely at 2, 4 and 6 months of age. The minimum interval between doses is 4 to 10 weeks.

Both Rotarix® and RotaTeq® products can be given together with other routine infant vaccines administered at the ages these products are given. Infants should receive **all** doses in the vaccine series (i.e., 2 doses for Rotarix® and 3 doses for RotaTeq®) to achieve optimal protection against rotavirus.

Recommended RV vaccine schedules			
Vaccines	Dose 1	Dose 2	Dose 3
Rot-1 - Rotarix® (1.5 mL/dose) 2-dose series	2 months of age	4 months of age	-----
Rot-5 - RotaTeq® (2.0 mL/dose) 3-dose series	2 months of age	4 months of age	6 months of age

NOTE:

Rot-1: first dose should be administered < 15 weeks of age and all doses administered <25 weeks of age.

Rot-5: first dose should be administered < 15 weeks of age and all doses administered <32 weeks of age.

Can the two RV vaccine products be used interchangeably to complete a series?

According to NACI, the two vaccines differ in composition and schedule, the vaccine series should be completed with the same product whenever possible.

If RotaTeq® was the vaccine used to start the immunization series and is not available, complete the series with Rotarix®. In this scenario, a total of 3 doses of vaccine should be administered.

Note: If any dose in the series is RotaTeq®, a total of 3 doses of rotavirus vaccine should be administered.

Scenarios to Complete Rotavirus Series:

Scenario	Response
1 or 2 doses of RotaTeq® was given and RotaTeq® is available	Complete the 3-dose series with RotaTeq® at an interval of 4 to 10 weeks between each dose. All doses should be administered by 32 weeks of age.
1 dose of RotaTeq® was given and RotaTeq® is not available	Complete series with 2 doses of Rotarix® at an interval of 4 weeks between doses. Two doses should be completed by 24 weeks of age.
2 doses of RotaTeq® were given and RotaTeq® is not available	Complete series with 1 dose of Rotarix® by 24 weeks of age.
If the product is unknown for previous dose(s)	Complete series with 2 doses of Rotarix® vaccine Note: If any dose in the series was RotaTeq®, a total of 3 doses of RV vaccine should be administered. All doses are required to be administered by 24 weeks of age.

What happens if an infant spits out or regurgitates most of the RV vaccine?

Please refer to the specific product monograph for details on the rotavirus vaccine product given.

Is it safe to administer RV vaccine to infants who are breastfed?

Yes, breastfed infants can receive rotavirus vaccine.

Can premature infants receive RV vaccine?

As per the general age limits for vaccination, RV vaccines are safe and effective when administered to healthy preterm infants starting at 6 weeks of chronological age, with the first dose administered before 15 weeks of chronological age.

Who should not receive RV vaccine?

Please refer to the product monograph for details on contraindications and precautions for the specific RV vaccine.

What are the potential side effects or adverse events that could be experienced following RV vaccination?

Most infants who receive RV vaccine tolerate the vaccine well and have no side effects. However, as with any vaccine, side effects can occur. Possible common reactions include diarrhea, vomiting, irritability/fussiness, cough/runny nose, fever, loss of appetite and otitis media.

Uncommon reactions include flatulence, abdominal pain, dermatitis, nasopharyngitis and bronchospasm. Based on studies and surveillance of RV vaccines there is a small increased risk of intussusception, particularly within the 7 days after the first dose.

What is the risk of intussusception following RV vaccine administration?

Intussusception in the first year of life occurs at a background rate (i.e., not associated with RV vaccination) of about 34 per 100,000 per year. The rate varies with age in the first year of life and peaks between 5 and 10 months of age.

Post-licensure studies of Rotarix® and RotaTeq® suggest a small increased risk of intussusception, in the range of an additional 1 to 7 cases of intussusception per 100,000 doses in the 7 days following the first and second doses.

Parents should be informed of this small increased risk following RV vaccination, particularly during the 7 days following the first dose. Parents should also be counselled regarding the signs and symptoms of intussusception and the importance of seeking medical care, should symptoms develop. They should also be informed that the risk of intussusception remains small compared to the benefit of RV vaccination in preventing disease, and of the potential for severe diarrhea with RV infection.

What are the symptoms of intussusception?

Intussusception is a rare type of bowel obstruction that occurs when one portion of the bowel slides into an immediately adjacent segment (also known as telescoping or prolapse). Complications of this can lead to intestinal swelling, inflammation and decreased blood flow to the part of the intestines involved.

Symptoms of intussusception include stomach pain with severe crying (which may be brief); several episodes of vomiting; blood in the stool; or a baby may act weak or become very irritable. Intussusception is very rare.

What is the risk of transmission of the vaccine form of RV following vaccine administration?

Following vaccination, viral antigen shedding in the stool may be detected in some vaccinated infants, which can be from a week to several weeks. Please see the product monograph for specific vaccine details.

Transmission of the vaccine virus to household contacts can occur but is uncommon. Infants living in households with persons who have or are suspected to have immunosuppressive conditions or who are receiving immunosuppressive medications can receive rotavirus vaccine. The benefits of protecting immunocompromised household contacts from naturally occurring rotavirus by immunizing infants outweighs the very small risk of acquiring vaccine virus from vaccinated infants.

To minimize the risk of transmission of vaccine virus, caregivers should be advised to practice hand hygiene after contact with the vaccinated infant, especially after changing diapers and before food preparation or direct contact with other unvaccinated infants, pregnant women or an immunocompromised person.

Where do I find more information about the vaccines, such as common side effects, contraindications, storage recommendations and administration?

The product monograph for Rotarix® is available at: <http://ca.gsk.com/en-ca/products/rotarix/>

The product monograph for RotaTeq® is available at: https://www.merck.ca/static/pdf/ROTATEQ-PM_E.pdf

For general information on rotavirus and vaccination, please visit the Canadian Immunization Guide at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/canadian-immunization-guide.html>