



Childhood Immunizations: Common Reactions and Treatment

Having your children properly immunized could protect them from getting some very serious and sometimes deadly diseases. However, it is not uncommon for a child to develop symptoms such as fever and redness after getting a shot. Below is a list of childhood vaccines. Our staff will circle the vaccines your child is receiving today. Please read on for the type of reaction your child might have after getting a shot and what to do about it.

- **DtaP/DT** (Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis/Diphtheria, Tetanus)
- **Td/Tdap** (Tetanus, Diphtheria, acellular Pertussis)
- **Pentacel®** (DTaP-IPV/Hib)
- **Hib** (*Haemophilus influenzae type b*)
- **Hepatitis A**
- **Hepatitis B**
- **IPV** (Inactivated Polio Vaccine)
- **MMR** (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)
- **MMRV** (Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Varicella)
- **Influenza** (Flu)
- **Pediarix®** (DTaP, IPV, Hepatitis B)
- **Prevnar®** (Pneumococcal-13)
- **Pneumovax®23** (Pneumococcal-23)
- **Varicella** (Chicken Pox)
- **Menomune™/Menactra®** (Meningococcal)
- **Gardasil®** (Human Papillomavirus - HPV)
- **Rotavirus**

The most common side effects to any childhood vaccine are: low-grade fever, redness, swelling, itching, soreness or a lump at the injection (shot) site. Most of these side effects are not serious and will disappear in one or two days. If your child develops redness, swelling or soreness where the shot was given, put a cool, wet cloth on the area for five minutes every three to four hours for the first day. If redness or swelling continues for a second day, put a warm, wet cloth on the area. A lump may appear at the injection site, which is normal and should go away in one to two months.

For low-grade fever, give your child the correct dose of fever-reducing medicine as recommended by your health care provider, and plenty of fluids (juice or water). Dosage for children is determined by the child's weight and/or age according to the product's packaging directions. **DO NOT** give your child aspirin unless advised to do so by the child's health care provider. Use only the dropper or measuring cup that comes with the medication to ensure you are giving the accurate amount. Be sure to read the medication package which will give dosage amounts and other tips. Do not give more than recommended.

Call your health care provider if your child appears seriously sick or has one or more of the following symptoms:

- Fever lasting longer than 48 hours (2 days) after receiving a shot
- crying that lasts three or more hours, without stopping.
- an injection site that stays red, hot or swollen more than a week.
- seizures or convulsions. (Call 911 immediately.)
- excessive sleepiness.

Please report these symptoms and treatment to the Department of Public Health *after* your child is treated by his health care provider.

Please remove band-aids from the injection site as soon as possible. This will prevent any possibility of the child removing the band-aids and choking on them.

Reminder: Always bring your child's immunization record with you on each visit to your health care provider or to our facility.

For more information contact Guilford County Department of Public Health at 641-7777 or www.guilfordhealth.org

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