



Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV)

About polio

Poliomyelitis, or polio, is a disabling and life-threatening disease caused by the poliovirus. Inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) can prevent this disease and its related complications.

Polio can infect a person's spinal cord, leading to paralysis. If the lungs are paralyzed, polio can cause death.

Most people infected with poliovirus have no symptoms, and many will recover without complications. Some people experience sore throat, fever, tiredness, nausea, headache, or stomach pain. People who have no symptoms can still infect others.

A smaller group of people will develop more serious symptoms that affect the brain and spinal cord, such as:

- **paresthesia** (feelings of pins and needles in the legs)
- **meningitis** (infection of the covering of the spinal cord and/or brain)
- **paralysis** (inability to move parts of the body, or weakness in the arms, legs, or both)

Polio is one of the few diseases that can be eradicated because it is only transmitted from person to person. Polio has been eliminated in the U.S., but it still occurs in other parts of the world. The best way to protect yourself and others is through polio vaccination.

Important details

Polio (IPV) vaccine is a **3-dose** series. Doses should be given at **2 months, 4 months, and 6-18 months** of age.

When all 3 doses are received, polio vaccine is **99-100% effective**

Most adults do not need polio vaccine because they were already vaccinated against polio as children. **Some adults are at higher risk and should consider polio vaccination**, including:

- people traveling to certain parts of the world
- laboratory workers who might handle poliovirus
- healthcare workers treating people who could have polio
- unvaccinated people whose children will be receiving oral poliovirus vaccine

Polio vaccine may be given as a standalone vaccine, or as part of a combination vaccine (a type that combines more than one vaccine together into one shot).



What to expect after vaccination

It's normal to experience immune response after vaccination— this is how you know the vaccine is working. Side effects are usually mild and resolve on their own within a few days. Some normal immune responses after the Poliovirus (IPV) vaccine include:

- pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site
- tiredness
- joint pain
- low fever
- vomiting

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting polio vaccine.

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- has had an allergic reaction after a previous dose of polio vaccine
- has any severe, life-threatening allergies

Not much is known about the risks of this vaccine for pregnant or breastfeeding people. However, polio vaccine can be given if a pregnant person is at increased risk for infection and requires immediate protection.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy, have vision changes, or ringing in your ears. As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

Polio vaccination statistics

90%

vaccine effectiveness against paralytic polio after 2 doses of polio vaccine

99-100%

vaccine effectiveness against paralytic polio after 3 doses of polio vaccine

99% decrease

in wild poliovirus since 1988

For more vaccine information, go to immunize.utah.gov or scan the QR code!

