



Rotavirus vaccine

About rotavirus

Rotavirus is a highly contagious viral infection that occurs in infants and young children. Rotavirus vaccine can prevent this disease.

Rotavirus symptoms include:

- fever
- vomiting
- severe, watery diarrhea for 3-8 days
- abdominal pain

Other possible symptoms include decreased urination, dry mouth and throat, dizziness, crying with few or no tears, and unusual sleepiness or fussiness.

Children may become dehydrated and need to be hospitalized. Rotavirus can cause death if untreated.

Rotavirus is highly contagious due to the following:

- the ability to survive on surfaces for several days
- an infected person can be contagious for several days before symptoms show up, and for up to 10 days after symptoms end
- infected people can be contagious even if they do not have any symptoms

Each year, the vaccine prevents an estimated 40,000 to 50,000 hospitalizations among U.S. infants and young children.

Important details

Rotavirus was the leading cause of severe diarrhea among infants and young children in the US before rotavirus vaccine was introduced in 2006.

Almost all babies who get rotavirus vaccine will be protected from severe rotavirus diarrhea.

Older and immunocompromised adults are also at higher risk of getting rotavirus.

Rotavirus vaccine is a 2- or 3-dose series, depending on the vaccine brand.

- RV5 is given in **three** doses at **2 months, 4 months, and 6 months** of age.
- RV1 is given in **two** doses at **2 months** and **4 months** of age.

Both rotavirus vaccines are given orally, by putting drops in the child's mouth.

Children should receive all doses before they turn 8 months old.



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 rotavirus vaccine include:

- mild fussiness or crying
- diarrhea
- vomiting

There is also a small risk of a type of bowel blockage called “intussusception,” usually within a week after the first or second vaccine dose. This additional risk is estimated to range from about 1 in 20,000 US infants to 1 to 100,000 U.S. infants who get a rotavirus vaccine.

Tell the vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- has had an allergic reaction after a previous dose of rotavirus vaccine
- has any severe, life-threatening allergies
- has a weakened immune system
- has severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)
- has had a type of bowel blockage called intussusception

Infants with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. Infants who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting rotavirus vaccine. In some cases, your child's healthcare provider may decide to postpone rotavirus vaccination until a future visit.

As with any medicine, there is a very small chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

Rotavirus vaccination statistics

86%

fewer office visits for gastroenteritis during the first 2 years of life after the rotavirus vaccine series

94%

fewer emergency department visits for gastroenteritis during the first 2 years of life after the rotavirus vaccine series

96%

fewer hospitalizations for gastroenteritis during the first 2 years of life after the rotavirus vaccine series

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

