

After your child is immunised

Information for parents and caregivers

Most immunisations do not cause a reaction, but your child may develop a fever or experience tenderness, swelling and redness where the injection was given.

Here are some ways to make your child more comfortable.

Give your child lots of cuddles and lots of fluids to drink. If breastfeeding, give them lots of feeds.

Fever

- If your child is hot, it can help to undress them down to a single layer, for example, a singlet and nappies or pants. Make sure the room is not too hot or too cold.

Tenderness, swelling and redness at the injection site

- Ice wrapped in a dry cloth, or a cooled cloth, can be held over the injection site if it is sore.
- Don't rub the injection site. This can make the reaction worse.

Medication

- Give paracetamol or ibuprofen only as advised by your doctor or nurse. Paracetamol may reduce the effectiveness of childhood vaccinations.

If you are concerned about your child after their immunisation, contact your family doctor or nurse. You can also call Healthline 0800 611 116 day or night.

The logo for 'immunise' features the word in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font inside a dark green oval. The oval has a slight shadow and is set against a background of a horizontal bar with segments of yellow, green, blue, red, and purple.

immunise

their best protection

These reactions can be expected, but they may not happen for all children

Today your child received			
✓	Vaccine	Most common reaction	When this could start
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rotavirus (Rotarix®)	Mild fever, diarrhoea, vomiting	Within 7 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	Measles-mumps-rubella (Priorix®)	Fever, rash, unsettled, swollen glands	Rash between 5 and 12 days after immunisation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis-inactivated polio-hepatitis B/ <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (INFANRIX® hexa) Pneumococcal (Prevenar 13®) <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b (Hiberix®) Diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis-inactivated polio (INFANRIX® IPV) Hepatitis B (Engerix-B®)	Fever, unsettled, swelling or soreness at the site of injection, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea	Within 6–24 hours
<input type="checkbox"/>	Varicella (Varivax®)	Swelling or redness at the injection site, fever, rash (rarely infectious)	Rash between 5 and 26 days after immunisation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meningococcal B (Bexsero®)	Fever over 38°C, discomfort or pain around the injection site. Infants and children may also be irritable, have unusual crying or a loss of appetite.	Within 6–24 hours. Fever usually peaks 6 hours after vaccination and settles over 24–48 hours. Follow paracetamol guidance provided by your vaccinator.

Occasionally, more serious reactions to vaccines occur. If you are concerned about your child after their immunisation, contact your family doctor or nurse. You can also call **Healthline 0800 611 116** day or night. In an emergency, **call 111** for an ambulance.

Serious reactions are recorded by the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM), and reports can be made online at otago.ac.nz/carm. Your doctor or nurse can help you with this.

If your child has had a strong reaction to an immunisation, discuss future immunisations with your doctor. Most children can continue immunisation with medical supervision.

For more information about immunisation call **0800 IMMUNE** or immune.org.nz

Phone:

After hours:



Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand

Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government



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