



## Keep your records!

After your child receives any vaccine you should ask for a written record of your immunization from the health care provider who administered it. Make sure your child's personal immunization card is updated each time a vaccine is received. It's an important document, so keep it in a safe place.

## Ontario is expanding its free vaccine program.

- 1. Rotavirus oral vaccine**  
for infants 6-24 weeks of age
- 2. Second dose of Chickenpox vaccine**  
for children 1-11 years of age
- 3. Whooping Cough booster vaccine**  
for adults 19-64 years of age

For more detailed information talk to your health care provider,  
call your local public health unit, or contact:

1-866-532-3161  
TTY 1-800-387-5559  
[ontario.ca/vaccines](http://ontario.ca/vaccines)

Immunization is the foundation for a healthy life.



Ontario is  
**expanding**  
its free vaccine  
program.

Vaccines build your  
immune system,  
making you stronger  
and healthier.

Ask your health care provider about  
**Rotavirus, Chickenpox and Whooping Cough.**  
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When you are vaccinated you actually build up your immune system, making you stronger and more resistant to disease as you grow. Like eating well and exercise, getting immunized is a foundation for a healthy life.

That's why Ontario is strengthening its Immunization Program with the launch of a new rotavirus vaccine for infants. Ontario is also making improvements to an essential vaccine for 4 to 6 year-olds and another for adults. Immunization is both a safe and necessary part of encouraging the health of you and your family.

## 1. Ontario leads the way with a new Rotavirus vaccine for infants.

Rotavirus is one of the leading causes of severe diarrhea in infants and children. It causes inflammation of the stomach and intestines, sometimes called gastroenteritis. It can lead to dehydration and may require a visit to the hospital.



Most young children are infected with it at least once by five years of age. The free rotavirus vaccine is the best way to protect your child against all the risks of the disease. That's why Ontario has added it to the recommended immunization schedule for infants 6-24 weeks of age.

## 2. Strengthen your child's immunity against Chickenpox.

In order to improve your child's immune response to chickenpox and to reduce the number of infections along with the subsequent severity of complications, a second dose of the chickenpox (varicella) vaccine is now available. It is a safe, effective vaccine that will provide added protection against this highly contagious illness.

The second dose will be offered to children from 4 to 6 years of age as part of the MMRV vaccine, which protects children from measles, mumps, rubella (German measles), and varicella (chickenpox).

However, if your child is between 1-11 years of age and has already received two doses of the MMR vaccine which protects them from measles, mumps and rubella as well as one dose of the varicella vaccine, a second dose of chickenpox vaccine is recommended.

### A stronger immune system for life

Vaccines are the best way to protect you and your family against some very serious infections. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the Canadian Pediatric Society strongly recommend routine immunization. To find out more, talk to your health care provider.

## 3. Stop the spread of Whooping Cough with this vaccine for adults.



Sometimes called pertussis, whooping cough is a serious disease especially in infants and young children. Adults are known to be the main source of pertussis infection to infants not yet fully protected. That's why parents and caregivers of newborns, infants and young children as well as health care workers are considered a priority to receive the vaccine.

The whooping cough booster vaccine offers all adults between 19 and 64 who were not immunized in adolescence, one dose of the pertussis vaccine that is good for life. It is given as part of the three-in-one Tdap vaccine that also covers two other serious diseases, tetanus and diphtheria.