



# Polio Vaccine (IPV)

## What you need to know about polio

**Polio vaccine** can prevent **polio**.

### Polio (poliomyelitis):

- is a disabling and life-threatening disease caused by poliovirus, which 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 recover without complications. Some people will experience sore throat, fever, tiredness, nausea, headache, or stomach pain. People with no symptoms can still infect others.
- A smaller group of people will develop more serious symptoms that affect the brain and spinal cord:
  - **Paresthesia** (feeling of pins and needles in the legs),
  - **Meningitis** (infection of the covering of the spinal cord and/or brain), or
  - **Paralysis** (can't move parts of the body) or weakness in the arms, legs, or both.
- Improvements in limb paralysis can occur, but in some people new muscle pain and weakness may develop 15 to 40 years later. This is called "post-polio syndrome."
- Polio is one of the few diseases that can be eradicated because it is only transmitted from person to person.
- Polio has been eliminated from the United States, but it still occurs in other parts of the world. The best way to protect yourself and keep the United States polio-free is to maintain high immunity (protection) in the population against polio through vaccination.

### Polio (IPV) Vaccine is a 3 dose vaccine:

- First dose at age 2 months
- Second dose at age 4 months
- Third dose at 6-18 months



### 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
- Health care workers treating patients who could have polio
- Unvaccinated people whose children will be receiving oral poliovirus vaccine (for example, international adoptees or refugees)



When all 3 doses are received, the Polio (IPV) Vaccine is **99-100% effective**



Polio vaccine may be given as a stand-alone vaccine, or as part of a **combination vaccine**.



Polio vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines. Ask your health care provider what other vaccines your child will receive at their well visit.

Data Sourced from CDC, PA-AAP Report on 2021 SILR Data



# WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER VACCINATION

It's normal to experience immune response after vaccination, this is how you know the vaccine is doing its job. These side effects are usually mild and disappear on their own in a few days. Some normal immune responses for Polio (IPV) Vaccine include:

**Soreness, redness, or swelling at injection sight**

**Drowsiness**

**Joint Pain**

**Low fever**

**Vomiting**

## Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an allergic reaction after a previous dose of polio vaccine, or has any severe, life-threatening allergies
- In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone polio vaccination until a future visit.
- 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.
- 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.
- Your health care provider can give you more information.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

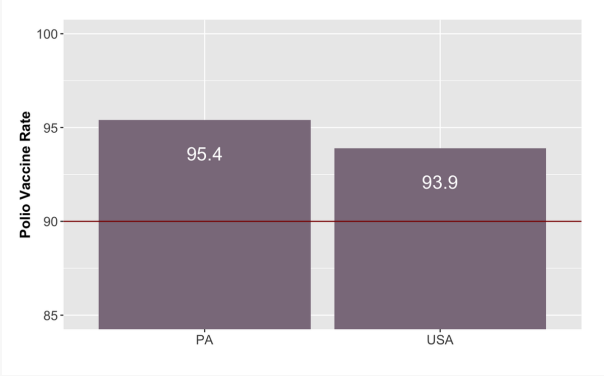
As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

# Polio Vaccination Rates

The Healthy People 2020 goal for Polio (IPV) Vaccine is **90%** for children aged 19 to 35 months.

\*Pennsylvania state and county data are taken from PAAAP Routine Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Report by Pennsylvania County 2018-2021; national data are taken from CDC estimates.

Percentage of Kindergarteners who had received 4 doses of Polio vaccine by 2020-21 school year in PA and USA\*



Scan the QR code to connect with the Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition or a local coalition near you!



For more vaccine information go to: [immunizepa.org](https://immunizepa.org)