

Pertussis or Whooping Cough is caused by germs (bacteria) that infect the throat and lungs. It can cause coughing spells so bad that a child has a hard time breathing and may vomit. The coughing can last for weeks or months. Children with serious complications may require long hospitalizations. Pneumonia, convulsions, brain damage and death may occur. Adults can also get whooping cough and become very ill.

Tetanus or Lockjaw is caused by germs (bacteria) that live in dirt or dust. The bacteria can enter the body through a small open cut or wound. The bacteria makes a poison which is absorbed by the body's muscles and causes severe spasms. Even with modern medicine six out of every ten people who get tetanus die.

Polio or polio is caused by a virus. It can cause fever, headache, vomiting, strong muscle pain and paralysis (can't move their arms or legs). It can also make children very tired and cause stiffness in the neck and back. Some people with polio don't feel sick at all. Other's become paralyzed for the rest of their lives, some people die.

Hib or Haemophilus Influenzae B is a disease caused by germs (bacteria) that can infect the fluid around the brain and spinal cord (Meningitis). In addition these bacteria can cause pneumonia (lung infection), epiglottitis (an inflammation and swelling of the opening of the windpipe), infections in the blood, joints, soft body tissues and outer covering of the heart. Even with treatment about 1 in 20 children with Hib meningitis will die. About 1 in 3 children who survive Hib meningitis will have brain damage.

**These vaccines
are given free at your
local health center or public health
unit.**

**If you would like to know more
about these vaccines or diseases
please call:**

**Yellowknife Public Health
4702 Franklin Ave.
Yellowknife NT**

(867)920-6570

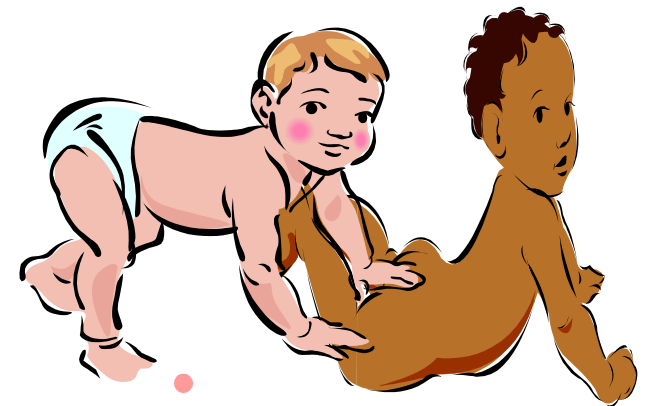
www.yhssa.org

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YK Health & Social Services

Pentacel Vaccine



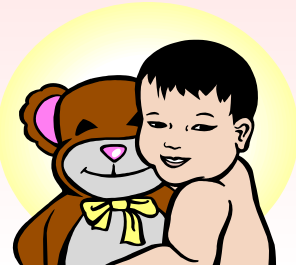
The ***Pentacel*** vaccine is the best protection your child can have against these five childhood diseases:

- **Diphtheria**
- **Pertussis (Whooping Cough)**
- **Tetanus**
- **Polio**
- **Hib (Haemophilus Influenzae B)**

The Canadian schedule for **Pentacel** is:

- **2 months**
- **4 months**
- **6 months**
- **18 months**
- **4 to 6 years (Without HIB)**

Your child will have the best protection against these diseases if they receive their shots at the right time. But it is Never too late to start.



Common side effects in the first 1-2 days after immunization are:

- **Fever**
- **Crankiness**
- **Some swelling and soreness in the area where they get their needle.**
- **A small, painless lump where the needle was given.**

Fever, pain and other minor reactions, can be reduced by giving the child acetaminophen (Tempra, Tylenol, etc). Ask your nurse about this.

If, following immunization, your child has a high fever that is not responding to Tylenol or if you are worried about your child in any way, please contact either:

- **Tele-Care NWT 1-888-255-1010**
- **YK Public Health 920-6570**
- **Emergency Department 669-4100**
- **Your doctor**

More about the diseases:

Diphtheria is an illness caused by germs (bacteria) that infect the nose, throat or skin. It can cause serious breathing problems or skin or ear infections. It can also cause heart failure and nerve damage for the rest of one's life. About one person in every ten who gets diphtheria dies. Babies who get this disease are more likely to die than adults.

