

# Common Immunization Reactions



Cardinal Pediatrics  
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## Common symptoms seen after vaccines

- Mild fussiness
  - Restless sleep
  - Crying
  - Decreased appetite or activity level
- \* These are normal and can last 24-48 hours

## Common reactions after vaccines

### Fever

- For most vaccines, fever begins within 12 hours and lasts 2-3 days
- Treat fevers with Tylenol or ibuprofen (if 6 months or older)
- Give extra fluids

### Local reactions at the injection site

- Pain, redness and swelling within 1-2 days after vaccines
- Treat with Tylenol or ibuprofen (if 6 months or older) and/or cold compress. Do not use cold compress for more than 20 minutes.
- A knot can sometimes form under the skin and last for several weeks

## When to call your doctor

- Fever over 104°F
- High pitched crying lasting more than 1 hour or nonstop crying for more than 3 hours
- Redness/swelling area larger than a 50-cent piece (1.5 inches) or getting worse after 3 days
- Your child looks or acts very sick
- Rash that develops beyond the injection site
- You have other questions or concerns

## Specific immunization reactions

**Rotavirus vaccine** - Vomiting (13%) and/or diarrhea (19%) can occur for 1-2 days after vaccination

### Varicella (Chickenpox) vaccine

- Fever can occur up to 28 days after vaccination (15%)
- Mild rash can occur 5-26 days after vaccination. It lasts a few days and is usually localized to the injection site but can be more widespread (1-5%)

### Meningococcal vaccine

- Headaches (40%) \*should not last longer than 24 hours
- Joint pain (20%)

**Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine** - Headaches (30%) \*should not last longer than 24 hours

**MMR vaccine** - Can cause mild, pink rash similar to measles rash on the trunk and last 2-3 days (5%). No treatment need and the rash cannot be spread to others.



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Remember we are only a phone call away!