



# FACT SHEET

## ROTAVIRUS VACCINE (ROTARIX)

### What is Rotavirus?

Rotavirus is a severe dehydrating gastroenteritis that is very contagious. Most children are infected with rotavirus at least once by five years of age. In Ontario, deaths from rotavirus are rare.

However, it is a major cause of visits to health care providers and hospital-stays for infants and children under 5 years of age.

Symptoms of rotavirus infection include fever, vomiting, watery diarrhea, and stomach pain which may last from 3 to 8 days. Rotavirus can lead to dehydration that may require medical care. Children with weakened immune systems may experience more severe illness for a longer period of time.

### When is the vaccine given?

Part of [Ontario's Routine Immunization schedule](#), this vaccine is a 2-dose series should be given at the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> visit.

Visit	Age	Vaccine schedule
1	2 months	DTaP-IPV-Hib, Pneu-C-13, <b>Rot-1</b>
2	4 months	DTaP-IPV-Hib, Pneu-C-13, <b>Rot-1</b>

The Rotarix is a liquid vaccine given by mouth.

Common vaccine brand used at RCDHU: Rotarix

A missed dose should be given as soon as possible.

The first dose must be given to infants no later than 15 weeks, and second dose no later than 25 weeks.

Rotarix is a live vaccine given by mouth. The vaccine form of rotavirus can stay in the stool of infants for up to 10 days after vaccination. To prevent the spread of the live vaccine virus, anyone caring for the immunized baby should wash their hands frequently especially after changing diapers.

### Who should not receive Rotarix?

Vaccination should be temporarily delayed in infants suffering from fever, diarrhea and/or vomiting. Infants should not receive the vaccine if they have:

- an allergy to the vaccine or any of its components.
- a condition or disease that weakens their immune system:
- "Severe Combined Immunodeficiency Disorder" (SCID).
- a history of intussusception (a condition where the bowels twist and become blocked).
- uncorrected congenital abdominal disorders (such as Meckel's diverticulum).
- Received blood products, including immunoglobulin, within 42 days.

*Continued on reverse*

## Is the vaccine safe?

Most babies who get Rotarix do not have any complications. Your child may become irritable or have mild, temporary diarrhea after getting a dose. Rarely, babies may experience an allergic reaction such as an itchy skin rash, shortness of breath and swelling of the face or tongue. Severe reactions are very rare and may include a slight increased risk of bowel obstruction (intussusception).

## When do I call my health care provider?

Seek immediate medical help if your child has any of the following reactions within three days of receiving the vaccine:

- hives
- swelling of the face or mouth
- trouble breathing, hoarseness or wheezing
- high fever (over 40°C)
- convulsions or seizures
- severe stomach pain, persistent vomiting,
- blood in stools, a swollen belly
- If your child experiences stomach pain with severe crying, vomiting, blood in the stool, weakness and irritability within 7 days after receiving the vaccine.

## Why is it important to keep a record?

You may need to provide records for your daycare, school, employment, day camp, co-ops, travel.

Families need to report immunization records to their local public health unit to ensure that all children have the required vaccines.

After any vaccination, make sure your personal immunization record, your "[Yellow Card](#)", is updated. Keep it in a safe place! Please inform us of any immunizations not received from us.

## How to report my vaccination to RCDHU?

<b>Ways to report Immunization Records</b>	
Visit <a href="http://www.rcdhu.com">www.rcdhu.com</a>	Immune
 <b>Report Immunization here accordion</b>	
 <b>Online</b>	<b>Immunization Connect Ontario (ICON)</b>
 <b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:immunization@rcdhu.com">immunization@rcdhu.com</a>
 <b>Fax</b>	<b>613-735-3067</b>
 <b>mail</b>	<b>141 Lake Street, Pembroke, ON K8A 5L8</b>
<b>For More Information</b>	
 <b>call</b>	<b>613-732-9436 or 1-833-773-0004</b>
 	<b>@RCDHealthunit</b>

Always include Client's legal name and date of birth on the records you are submitting. The health card number is highly recommended to help us identify the right client file.

**Source:** Adapted from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

**Visit our website at [www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com)**

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"