

# Updated Polio Vaccination Guidelines for Children Previously Immunized with Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV)

Update to York Region health care professionals as of April 26, 2024

On April 19<sup>th</sup> 2024, the Ministry of Health updated provincial polio vaccine recommendations for children previously immunized internationally with the oral polio vaccine (OPV).

## Polio Vaccine Recommendations

In April 2016, the World Health Organization arranged for countries administering the OPV to replace the trivalent oral polio vaccine (tOPV) with the bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV). The bOPV contains only poliovirus serotype 1 and 3, and does not contain serotype 2.

**Therefore, children who have been immunized internationally with OPV on or after April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 should be presumed to have received bOPV.**

Since these children have not received protection against all three poliovirus types, they should receive an inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) or an IPV-containing vaccine using an age-appropriate schedule.

## Catch-up Immunization Schedule for IPV Vaccine for Children and Adolescents Based on Age of Initiation

Age at start of catch-up immunization	Total number of IPV doses	Recommended interval between doses
6 weeks - 3 years	4 doses <sup>i</sup>	First 3 doses given at an interval of 8 weeks (minimum of 4 weeks) between doses; 4th dose given 6-12 months after 3rd dose and on/after the fourth birthday <sup>i, ii</sup>
4 – 17 years	3 doses	First 2 doses given at an interval of 8 weeks (minimum of 4 weeks) between doses; 3rd dose given 6-12 months after 2nd dose

<sup>i</sup> A 4th dose is not required if the 3rd dose was given on/after the fourth birthday (and at least 6 months following the 2nd dose).

<sup>ii</sup> A dose of IPV-containing vaccine should be administered at 4-6 years of age, regardless of the number polio vaccine doses administered prior to 4 years of age.

Note: This catch-up schedule is specific to IPV vaccine and assumes the child is otherwise up to date with their immunizations. If the child requires an immunization to other antigens in the combination vaccine, please refer to the [Ontario catch-up immunization schedule](#).

For further guidance, please refer to the following [Q&A](#) sheet from the Ministry of Health.

For more details on this update, please review the [Summary Immunization Recommendations for Children Previously Immunized with Oral Poliovirus Vaccine \(publichealthontario.ca\)](#)

## Contact York Region Public Health

- For more information, call our Vaccine-Preventable Diseases nurses at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73452.
- To order publicly funded vaccines or if you have any questions about vaccine distribution, storage, and handling related issues, please contact our Vaccine Inventory Program at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 74033 or [vaccineinventory@york.ca](mailto:vaccineinventory@york.ca)

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