

# VACCINE INFORMATION SHEET

## Polio Vaccine

### (IMOVAX® Polio Vaccine)

#### **This vaccine protects against poliomyelitis – a serious infection**

- Inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) is given from 2 months of age onwards to protect individuals against polio disease. Combination vaccines that contain polio vaccine is routinely given to infants and children
- IPV vaccine may be given to children and adults with an incomplete series in order to bring them up-to-date with their immunization
- Proof of vaccination against polio, or a valid exemption, is required by law for all children attending school in Ontario
- The vaccine is also recommended for people who are travelling to countries where risk of polio still exists

#### **Mild side effects may occur, such as:**

- Redness, swelling or pain at the injection site are the most common
- Fever, chills, headache and fatigue

#### **People should avoid this immunization if they:**

- Have a high fever or serious infection worse than a cold; vaccination should be delayed until they are better
- Have ever had a severe allergic (anaphylactic) reaction to a previous dose of this vaccine
- Have an allergy to any vaccine component such as, neomycin, streptomycin, polymyxin B

#### **People should consult their health care provider before vaccination if they:**

- Have complicated medical issues or previous severe reactions to vaccines

## Poliomyelitis (Polio)

- Is a serious disease that can cause nerve damage or paralysis for life
- The virus is spread by contaminated food or water
- Canada has been polio free for the last 20 years but as long as polio exists in other countries, it can be imported to Canada

### **PUBLIC HEALTH**

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