

Tetanus Immunisation

Boostrix vaccination (also known as Tdap)



You are receiving this vaccine today to protect against tetanus infection. This is a serious disease caused by tetanus bacteria, which is found in soil and animal faeces (poo). If an adult or child has a cut exposed to soil, they could get tetanus.

Other ways tetanus bacteria can get into your body through:



Open fractures where the skin is broken and the bone exposed



Body piercings and tattoos



Wounds that contain foreign objects, such as wood splinters



Crush injuries



Burns



Bite wounds



Eye injuries

Boostrix is a part of the New Zealand Immunisation Schedule. The below diseases are included in childhood immunisations to provide immunity against them, and boosters are received at age 11, 45 and 65 years. The boostrix vaccine is highly recommended from 16 weeks in pregnancy and following injury where the wound is at high risk of being infected with tetanus or if it has been more than 5 years since the last booster.

> Tetanus

Tetanus is a disease that causes muscles to stiffen or spasm. It may affect the breathing muscles. Tetanus is often fatal.

> Diptheria

Diptheria affects the throat, making it hard to breathe and swallow. It may also affect the nerves, muscles heart, skin and can be fatal.

> Pertussis (whooping cough)

Whooping cough causes breathing difficulties and severe coughing fits. More than half of babies under 12 months old who catch it need to go to hospital, and up to 1 in 50 of these babies die.



Vaccination is the best method for preventing tetanus infection.

This does not stop the bacteria growing in a contaminated wound, but it provides protection against the harmful toxin released by the bacteria.

You cannot get tetanus disease from the vaccine, as it does not contain live, active bacteria.

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Some people experience mild reactions after a vaccination. This is the body's normal response to immunisation and shows the vaccine is working. These are quite common for the first 1 or two days after receiving the injection and usually settle within a few days.

How you may feel*	What can help
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swelling and pain at the injection site (<i>hard and sore to touch</i>) • Heavy arm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place a cold wet cloth or icepack at the injection site. Leave it on for a short time. • Do not rub the injection site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling unwell or tired • A mild fever or aching muscles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest and drink plenty of fluids. • Paracetamol and ibuprofen, only take for relief of significant discomfort or high fever. Follow the manufacturer's instructions or seek advice from your healthcare provider or call Healthline on 0800 611 116 for advice.

*These symptoms may not be related to the vaccine and could be a sign of an unrelated illness. See below for advice on seeking help.

If you have concerns about your symptoms after your vaccine, talk to your doctor or practice nurse, or call Healthline on **0800 611 116** anytime to get advice. If you have immediate concerns about your safety, call **111** and make sure you tell them you have had a Boostrix vaccination.



Recording vaccinations

24 Hour Surgery records vaccines administered on a centralised database. This allows your healthcare professional to access your vaccine history and will help keep you up to date with your vaccinations. To understand how we protect your privacy when recording vaccinations visit health.govt.nz/air

For more information on Tetanus scan the QR code or visit immune.org.nz/diseases/tetanus



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