



Important Facts for Parents to Know about

The (Inactivated) Polio Vaccine (IPV)

Polio vaccine prevents *poliomyelitis* — a very serious disease that can cause paralysis or even death.

- Before polio immunizations were available, polio paralyzed 13,000 to 20,000 people and killed about 1,000 more each year. Most of these victims were elementary school children.
- Because of the high level of vaccination, polio has been eliminated from North and South America.

The vaccine effectively protects at least 99% of children who receive the full series of shots.

Most children who receive the inactivated polio vaccine will have *no side effects* of any kind. The few children who do suffer a side effect have only mild reactions.

- Mild reactions include soreness where the shot was given.
- Aspirin-free pain reliever can be used to reduce soreness.

There are no serious side effects associated with the inactivated polio vaccine.

- Your child cannot get polio from inactivated polio vaccine.

Until polio is eliminated worldwide, your child's chance of being harmed by polio remains greater than the risk of being harmed by the vaccine.

- Polio is still prevalent in other parts of the world, and is only a plane ride away.
- Immunizations are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious infectious diseases.

parents:

Please also read the Vaccine Information Statement on the (inactivated) polio vaccine from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for other important information, including who should and who should not get the vaccine.