



# TYPHOID VACCINE

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



### 1. What is Typhoid ?

- Typhoid (Typhoid Fever) is a serious disease. It is caused by bacteria called Salmonella Typhi.
- Typhoid causes a high fever, weakness, stomach pains, headache, loss of appetite, and sometimes a rash. ***If it is not treated, it can kill up to 30% of people who get it.***
- Some people who get Typhoid become “carriers,” who can spread the disease to others.
- Generally, people get Typhoid from contaminated food or water.
- **Typhoid strikes about 21 million people a year around the world and kills about 200,000.**

**Typhoid vaccine can prevent Typhoid.**

### 2. Typhoid vaccine:

***There are two vaccines to prevent Typhoid. One is an inactivated (killed) vaccine taken as a shot, and the other is live, attenuated (weakened) vaccine which is taken orally (by mouth).***

### 3. Who should get Typhoid vaccine and when ?

***Typhoid vaccine is recommended for:***

- Travelers to parts of the world where Typhoid is common. (NOTE: Typhoid vaccine is not 100% effective and is not a substitute for being careful about what you eat or drink.)
- People in close contact with a Typhoid carrier.

***- Inactivated Typhoid vaccine (shot):***

- Should not be given to children younger than 2 years of age.
- One dose provides protection. It should be given at least 2 weeks before travel to allow the vaccine time to work.

**A booster dose is needed every 2 years for people who remain at risk.**

***- Live Typhoid vaccine (oral):***

- Should not be given to children younger than 6 years of age.
- Four doses, given 2 days apart, are needed for protection. The last dose should be given at least 1 week before travel to allow the vaccine time to work.
- A booster dose is needed every 5 years for people who remain at risk.

**Either vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.**

### 4. Some people should not get Typhoid vaccine or should wait:

***- Inactivated Typhoid vaccine (shot):***

- Anyone who has had a severe reaction to a previous dose of this vaccine should not get another dose.

***- Live Typhoid vaccine (oral):***

- Anyone who has had a severe reaction to a previous dose of this vaccine should not get another dose.
- Anyone whose immune system is weakened should not get this vaccine. They should get the inactivated Typhoid vaccine instead. These people include anyone who:
  - Has HIV/AIDS or another disease that affects the immune system.
  - Is being treated with drugs that affect the immune system, such as steroids, for 2 weeks or longer.

- Has any kind of cancer or is taking cancer treatment with x-rays or drugs.
- Oral Typhoid vaccine should not be given within 24 hours of certain antibiotics.

**Ask your doctor or nurse for more information.**

## 5. What are the risks from Typhoid vaccine ?

A vaccine, like any medicine, could possibly cause serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The risk of a vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

***Serious problems from either of the two Typhoid vaccines are very rare.***

***Inactivated Typhoid vaccine (shot) mild reactions:***

- Fever (approximately about 1 person per 100).
- Headache (approximately about 3 people per 100).
- Redness or swelling at the site of the injection (approximately 7 people per 100).

***Live Typhoid vaccine (oral) mild reactions:***

- Fever or headache (approximately about 5 people per 100).
- Abdominal discomfort, nausea, vomiting, or rash (rare).

## 6. What if there is a moderate or severe reaction ?

***What should I look for ?***

- Any unusual condition, such as a serious allergic reaction, high fever or unusual behavior. Serious allergic reactions are extremely rare with any vaccine. If one were to occur, it would be within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot. Signs can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness.

***What should I do ?***

- Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- Tell your doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.

## 7. How can I learn more ?

- Ask your doctor or nurse. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information.
- Contact the American Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):  
Visit CDC websites at: [www.cdc.gov/nip](http://www.cdc.gov/nip)