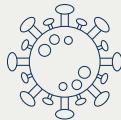


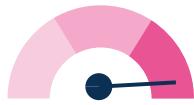
## UNDERSTANDING THE RISKS

# Getting Polio vs. Getting Vaccinated



We all want to make the best health choices for our children. So how risky is polio compared to the vaccines that prevent polio?

## POLIO FAST FACTS



### HOW CONTAGIOUS?

**Very contagious.** When there is 1 confirmed case of polio in a household, nearly 100% of susceptible children and over 90% of susceptible adults in the household who are exposed to the virus will become positive for polio.<sup>1</sup>



### HOW SERIOUS?

**Typically mild to moderate.**

But serious complications can include:

**Paralysis:** Up to 1 in 200 people<sup>2,3,4</sup>

**Meningitis (an infection of the brain and spinal cord covering):** 1–5 out of 100 people, depending on which type of polio a person is infected with.<sup>1,3</sup>

## Post-polio syndrome (muscle pain, weakness, or paralysis):

Can happen 15–40 years after infection, regardless of how serious or mild the illness was.<sup>3,4</sup>

**Death:** 2–10 out of 100 people are paralyzed by polio, usually because the muscles that help them breathe are paralyzed.<sup>2,3</sup>

### VACCINE FAST FACTS



#### HOW EFFECTIVE?

The inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) is 90% effective after 2 doses and at least 99% effective after 3 doses.<sup>5,6</sup>



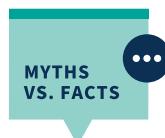
#### HOW SAFE?

Generally, for every 1 million vaccines administered in the United States, only about 1–2 doses result in a severe allergic reaction.<sup>7,8</sup>



#### SAFETY RECORDS

The IPV has been used in the United States since 1955. The oral polio vaccine (OPV), which is given as drops, is used in low-resource countries and has been in use since 1961. Since 2000, the only polio vaccine used in the United States is the IPV. Hundreds of millions of people have safely received polio vaccines.<sup>1,3,9,10</sup>



#### MYTH BUSTER

Is polio still around? Yes. Lower vaccination rates have resulted in outbreaks in the United States.<sup>5,10,11,12,13</sup> Learn more at [cdc.gov/polio/](http://cdc.gov/polio/).



**Five separate safety systems continuously monitor all vaccines for as long as the vaccines are given.<sup>14</sup>**

Learn more at [hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html](https://hhs.gov/immunization/basics/safety/index.html).

## COMPARING THE TWO

### POLIO

### VACCINES TO PREVENT POLIO

#### **Common Mild to Moderate Symptoms and Common Side Effects<sup>1,3,9,15</sup>**

Most children have no symptoms but can pass polio on to others. One out of 4 children with polio have flu-like symptoms. Common symptoms of polio last about 2–5 days and can include:

- Sore throat
- Fever
- Tiredness
- Nausea
- Headache
- Stomach pain

prevent polio are usually mild and last 1–2 days. If side effects occur, they can include:

- Soreness or redness where the vaccine was given

## Rare, More Serious Symptoms or Complications and Rare Side Effects<sup>1,3,7,8,9,15</sup>

Serious symptoms or complications of polio vary and can include:

- Meningitis
- Paralysis
- Paresthesia (feeling pins and needles)

Serious side effects of vaccines to prevent polio vary and can include:

- Severe allergic reaction (generally, for every 1 million vaccines administered in the United States, only about 1–2 doses result in a severe allergic reaction)

Sources:

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13. CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0913-polio.html>
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