

# Tuberculosis Vaccine

Vaccination,  
the best protection

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This vaccine protects against tuberculosis (TB) and its complications. The disease appears months or years after infection by the bacteria. TB may develop in various organs such as the lungs, bones, and kidneys. Only tuberculosis of the lungs or of the larynx are contagious.

Disease	Transmission	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
<b>Tuberculosis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Tuberculosis is spread by inhaling tiny droplets produced when someone with contagious tuberculosis coughs or sneezes.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cough</li><li>Sputum</li><li>Fatigue</li><li>Fever</li><li>Weight loss</li><li>Sweating</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pleuritis (infection of the lining of the lungs)</li><li>Meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain)</li></ul>

## Vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against tuberculosis and its complications. In Québec, the vaccine is sometimes recommended for people travelling to regions with a high risk of tuberculosis infection.

## Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g. redness at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g. cold, gastro, headache).

The tuberculosis vaccine is safe. In most cases, it does not cause any reaction.

Frequency	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
In most cases (more than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Redness, swelling and ulcers at the injection site</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Keep the ulcer covered until a scab forms, then leave it exposed.</li><li>Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site.</li><li>Use a medication for fever or discomfort if needed.</li><li>See a doctor if symptoms are severe.</li></ul>
Very often (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In newborns and children, swollen lymph nodes in the arm pit or above the collar bone on the side where the vaccine was given</li></ul>	
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pain and irritation at the injection site</li><li>Scarring at the injection site</li><li>In adults, swollen lymph nodes in the arm pit or above the collar bone on the side where the vaccine was given</li><li>Fever, red eyes, and skin rash</li></ul>	
Rarely (less than 1 person in 1,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Swollen lymph nodes with a discharge of pus</li></ul>	
less than 1 person in 1 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Systemic infection</li></ul>	

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

**For any questions, contact the person giving the vaccine, or Info-Santé 8-1-1 or your doctor.**