

Advice Following Immunisation

by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals - Tuesday, January 10, 2012

The majority of babies and children have no reaction at all following immunisations. Some children and babies, however, may have a minor reaction.

Minor reactions may include:

- Sleepy and tired
- Irritable and tearful
- Feel hot and have a temperature
- A small, hard red lump at the injection site which may last for several weeks. If the lump is bigger than a 50 pence piece, seek medical advice.

To help reduce your child's or baby's temperature:

- The room temperature should be cool and comfortable.
- Do not over or under-dress a child or baby with a fever, a vest and nappy may be all that they need.
- Offer extra drinks, if breastfeeding then continue as normal.

If your child or baby is distressed or unwell, consider giving infant paracetamol as directed. (Babies 2 - 3 months are allowed a maximum of 2 doses of infant paracetamol and only following immunisation, each dose being half a teaspoon (2.5 ml) with a gap of 4 - 6 hours between each dose). If after 2 doses your baby still has a temperature, contact your doctor.

If your child's or baby's temperature suddenly rises to:

38°C (baby aged 0-3 months)

39°C (baby aged over 3 months)

medical attention must be sought as soon as possible.

Advice following measles, mumps and rubella (MMR immunisation)

The three separate vaccines in the MMR immunisation may have different side effects at different times. Your child will not be infectious and can mix with other children as normal.

7-10 days later your child or baby:

- May have a temperature
- Be generally unwell
- May develop a mild, measles-like rash

3 weeks later your child or baby:

- May have a temperature
- May have a slight swelling on one or both sides of the neck.

Very, very rarely a child may have a more serious reaction to immunisation, an allergic reaction. It will be easy to recognise and the symptoms may include limpness/collapse, noisy or difficulty in breathing, swelling around the face, hands or feet, looking pale or develop a prominent, raised rash.

If you have already left the surgery you must dial 999 as soon as possible.