



# After the Shots...

## What to do if your child has discomfort

Your child may need extra love and care after getting vaccinated. Some vaccinations that protect children from serious diseases also can cause discomfort for a while. Here are answers to questions many parents have after their children have been vaccinated. If this sheet doesn't answer your questions, call your health care provider.

Vaccinations may hurt a little...but disease can hurt a lot!

### I think my child has a fever. What should I do?

Check your child's temperature to find out if there is a fever. An easy way to do this is by taking a temperature in the armpit using an electronic thermometer (or by using the method of temperature-taking your health care provider recommends). If your child has a temperature that your health care provider has told you to be concerned about or if you have questions, call your health care provider.

### Here are some things you can do to help reduce fever:

- Give your child plenty to drink.
- Dress your child lightly. Do not cover or wrap your child tightly.
- Give your child a fever- or pain-reducing medicine such as acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol) or ibuprofen (e.g., Advil, Motrin). The dose you give your child should be based on your child's weight and your health care provider's instructions. *Do not give aspirin.* Recheck your child's temperature after 1 hour. Call your health care provider if you have questions.

### My child has been fussy since getting vaccinated. What should I do?

After vaccination, children may be fussy because of pain or fever. To reduce discomfort, you may want to give your child a medicine such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. *Do not give aspirin.* If your child is fussy for more than 24 hours, call your health care provider.

### My child's leg or arm is swollen, hot, and red. What should I do?

- Apply a clean, cool, wet washcloth over the sore area for comfort.
- For pain, give a medicine such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. *Do not give aspirin.*
- If the redness or tenderness increases after 24 hours, call your health care provider.

### My child seems really sick. Should I call my health care provider?

If you are worried **at all** about how your child looks or feels, call your health care provider!

### Call your health care provider right away if you answer "yes" to any of the following questions:

- Does your child have a temperature that your health care provider has told you to be concerned about?
- Is your child pale or limp?
- Has your child been crying for more than 3 hours and just won't quit?
- Is your child's body shaking, twitching, or jerking?
- Is your child very noticeably less active or responsive?

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 1-877-888-7468 OR VISIT [WWW.IMMUNIZEFLORIDA.ORG](http://WWW.IMMUNIZEFLORIDA.ORG).**

Adapted from Immunization Action Coalition at [www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4015.pdf](http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4015.pdf).