

# Rotavirus Vaccine VAC-FACT



**Did you know?** – Rotavirus is the most common cause of severe diarrhea in infants and young children.

<b>Rotavirus Infection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rotavirus infection is nearly universal. Almost all children in the United States are infected by 5 years of age.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Worldwide, up to 500,000 children die per year due to rotavirus infection.</li> <li>➢ In the US, rotavirus infection is responsible for more than 200,000 emergency department visits, 55,000 - 70,000 hospitalization, and 20 – 60 deaths per year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Rotavirus infection in infants and young children may cause severe diarrhea with fever and vomiting.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Complications include dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, and metabolic acidosis. Children aged 3 to 35 months are at increased risk for severe disease.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Transmission is by fecal-oral route.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ In Alaska, peak incidence typically occurs from February to late spring.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				
<b>State-supplied Rotavirus Vaccine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oral vaccine containing 5 reassortant rotaviruses</li> <li>• Presentation – single 2ml dose in squeezable plastic tube with twist-off cap</li> <li>• Brand name RotaTeq®, manufactured by Merck</li> </ul>				
<b>Components</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">Live virus:</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;">Thimerosal:</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> </table>	Live virus:	Yes	Thimerosal:	No
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<b>Recommended Schedule</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Infants should receive 3 doses of RotaTeq® orally at ages 2, 4, and 6 months</b></li> <li>• <b>Minimum interval between doses is 4 weeks</b></li> </ul>				
<b>SPECIAL TIMING CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;"><b>DOSE #1</b></td> <td><i>Administer between 6 weeks and 14 weeks+6 days of age DO NOT BEGIN SERIES IF AGE IS ≥ 15 WEEKS</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>DOSE #2 or #3</b></td> <td><i>Administer through age 8 months 0 days DO NOT CONTINUE SERIES IF AGE IS &gt; 8 mos 0 days</i></td> </tr> </table>	<b>DOSE #1</b>	<i>Administer between 6 weeks and 14 weeks+6 days of age DO NOT BEGIN SERIES IF AGE IS ≥ 15 WEEKS</i>	<b>DOSE #2 or #3</b>	<i>Administer through age 8 months 0 days DO NOT CONTINUE SERIES IF AGE IS &gt; 8 mos 0 days</i>
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<b>Safety</b>	<p>A previous rotavirus vaccine, RotaShield® (Wyeth-Ayerst), was associated with increased risk of intussusception and was removed from the market. The current rotavirus vaccine, RotaTeq® (Merck), was extensively tested pre-licensure and is being closely monitored. To date, the rate of intussusception in RotaTeq® vaccinees is consistent with the number of cases expected in unvaccinated children. Report any possible cases of vaccine-associated intussusception to VAERS - <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/iso/research_activities/vaers.htm">http://www.cdc.gov/od/science/iso/research_activities/vaers.htm</a></p>				

**Package insert** <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/UCM142288.pdf>

- Alaska Epidemiology Bulletin "Rotavirus vaccine now available from Alaska Immunization Program" [http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us/bulletins/docs/b2007\\_07.pdf](http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us/bulletins/docs/b2007_07.pdf)
- **MMWR** Feb 6, 2009, Vol 58 / No. RR02 "Prevention of Rotavirus Gastroenteritis Among Infants and Children Recommendations of the ACIP" [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5802a1.htm?s\\_cid=rr5802a1\\_e](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5802a1.htm?s_cid=rr5802a1_e)
- WHO Statement Regarding Rotarix® and RotaTeq® Vaccines and Intussusception Oct 28, 2010 <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/rotavirus/intussusception-studies-acip.htm>
- Call the **Alaska Immunization Helpline** at **888-430-4321** or **269-8088 in Anchorage**

**Vaccinate Alaska Coalition (VAC)** seeks to protect the health of all Alaskans by decreasing vaccine-preventable disease through positive immunization promotion campaigns, support of local immunization coalitions, and increased private and public provider participation in immunization activities.

**Vaccinate Alaska Coalition website:** [www.vaccinate.alaska.gov](http://www.vaccinate.alaska.gov)

This and other VAC FACT sheets are available online at the VAC website. Click on VAC-FACT sheets.