

# ROTAVIRUS



## The data

The Rotavirus vaccine prevents 125 THOUSAND hospitalizations and 800 DEATHS EVERY YEAR in countries and territories in the Region of the Americas.



## The disease

- > Rotavirus is a virus that affects CHILDREN UNDER FIVE years of age who are at greater risk of becoming infected, seriously ill and dying.
- > It is the MOST COMMON CAUSE of diarrhea in children under five years of age worldwide.
- > Improved hygiene, water supply and sewage disposal are not sufficient to PREVENT the disease.



## Symptoms

They usually begin about two days after exposure to the virus and include:

- > Vomiting
- > Watery diarrhea

Other symptoms:

- > Loss of appetite
- > Dehydration, which can be severe and lead to shock and death, if not treated



## Transmission

- > The contagion is FECAL-ORAL and through contaminated objects (toys, food, etc.).
- > Person-to-person, hand-to-hand transmission appears to be responsible for spreading the virus in CLOSED ENVIRONMENTS, such as homes, hospitals and day care centers.



## Vaccines

Since 2006, 22 countries and territories in the Region have introduced the vaccine into their immunization programs. TWO VACCINES against rotavirus are being used in the Region.



## Calendar

PAHO recommends vaccination in children depending on the vaccine used. The first dose is administered at 2 MONTHS and the second dose at 4 MONTHS. Depending on the vaccine used, a third dose may be required at 6 months.