

TETANUS



The data

Thanks to vaccination, neonatal tetanus was **ELIMINATED** from the Americas in 2017.



The disease

- > It is an **ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE** caused by spores of the bacterium *Clostridium tetani*.
- > **SPORES** are found everywhere in the environment, particularly in soil, ashes, animal and human intestines and feces, and on the surface of skin and rusty tools such as nails, needles, barbed wire, etc.



Transmission

- > Tetanus is acquired after **CUTS OR WOUND INFECTION** with the bacteria, and most cases appear within 14 days of infection.
- > Tetanus is not transmitted from person to person.
- > It is **PARTICULARLY COMMON AND SERIOUS IN NEWBORN BABIES AND PREGNANT MOTHERS** who have not been sufficiently immunized.



Symptoms

- > Jaw cramps or inability to open the mouth
- > Muscle spasms, often in the back, abdomen and extremities
- > Sudden, painful muscle spasms, often provoked by sudden noises
- > Difficulty swallowing
- > Seizures
- > Headache
- > Fever
- > Sweating
- > Changes in blood pressure or accelerated heart rate
- > In neonatal tetanus, symptoms include muscle spasms, which are often preceded by the newborn's inability to suckle or nurse, and excessive crying.



Vaccines

- > Tetanus **IS PREVENTABLE THROUGH VACCINATION**.
- > People who recover from tetanus **DO NOT HAVE NATURAL IMMUNITY** and can become re-infected.
- > Tetanus vaccination is normally administered with the DTP vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis).
- > In addition, it is also administered combined with diphtheria, pertussis and Hib (quadrivalent); combined with diphtheria, pertussis, hepatitis B and Hib (pentavalent); combined vaccine with diphtheria, pertussis, inactivated polio and Hib (pentavalent); and combined vaccine with diphtheria, pertussis, hepatitis B, inactivated polio and Hib (hexavalent).



Calendar

- > **6 DOSES** (3 primary doses plus 3 booster doses)
- > The primary series should begin at **6 WEEKS** of age, and the other two at a minimum of **4 WEEKS**.
- > The **3 booster doses** should be administered during the second year of life, at **4-7 YEARS** of age and at **9-15 YEARS** of age.