



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



- 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.



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

- 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.



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.

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.