

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

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.

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.

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).