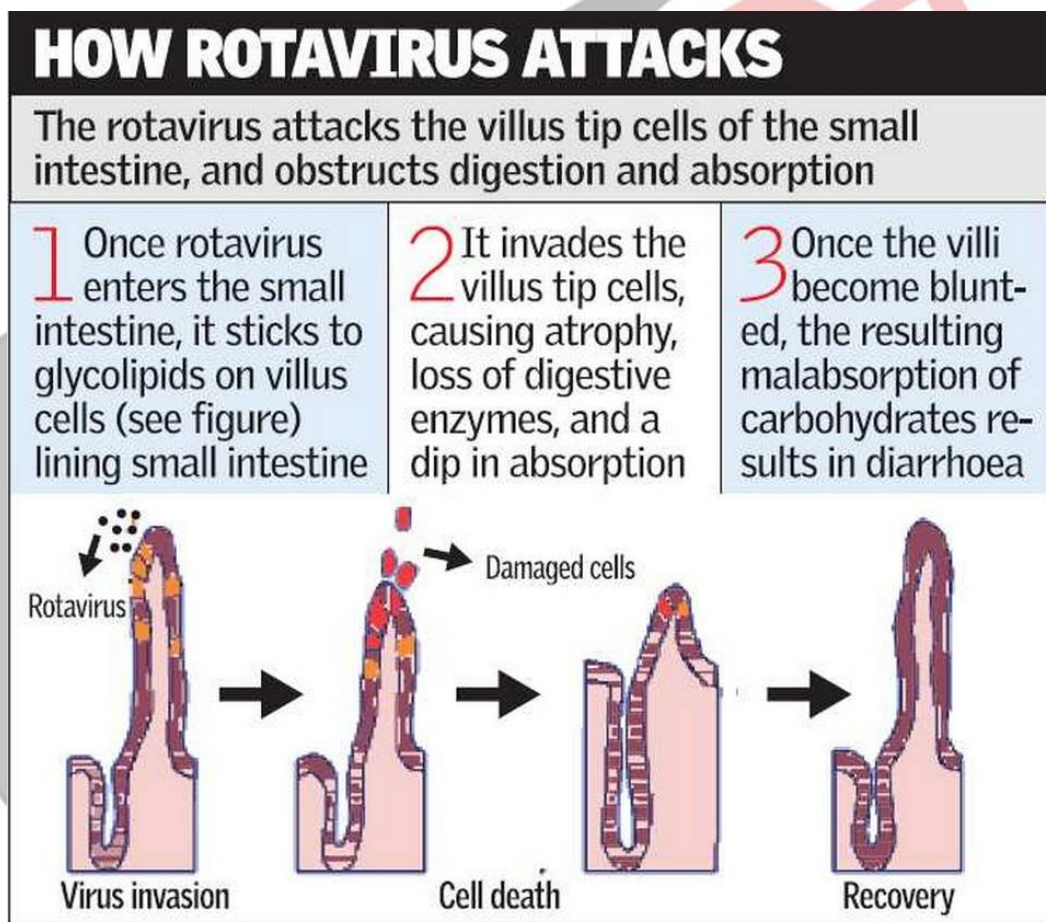




## Rotavirus Vaccination Drive

The government of India is set to launch a rotavirus vaccine drive across **all states and Union territories** by September 2019.

- The vaccine is currently being administered in Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.
- The Rotavac has been introduced in [India's Universal Immunisation Programme](#) (UIP) including [Inactivated Polio Vaccine](#) (IPV), [Measles](#), Rubella (MR) vaccine, Adult [Japanese Encephalitis](#) (JE) vaccine, [Tuberculosis](#), Diphtheria, Pertussis, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib).



**Rotavirus** // *Source: Principles and Practices of Clinical Virology. 5th ed. 2004*

- Rotavirus can cause diarrhoea, which can lead to dehydration (not having enough water in the body).
- Rotavirus is a **contagious disease** that spreads easily from child to child.
- Rotavirus spreads when a person comes in contact with the **feces** of someone who has rotavirus and then touches their own mouth. For example, rotavirus can spread when a child with rotavirus

doesn't wash their hands properly after going to the bathroom and then touches food or other objects.

#### ▪ **Symptoms**

- Severe diarrhea
- Throwing up
- Dehydration
- Fever
- Stomach pain
- [World Health Organisation](#) (WHO) recommends that the **first dose** of rotavirus vaccine be administered as soon as possible **after 6 weeks of age**, along with DTP vaccination (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis).
- WHO has recommended the inclusion of rotavirus vaccine in the **National Schedules** of the countries where under five mortality due to diarrhoeal diseases is more than 10%.
- Currently, two vaccines are available against rotavirus:
  - **Rotarix** (GlaxoSmithKline): is a **monovalent vaccine recommended** to be orally administered in two doses at 6-12 weeks.
  - **Rota Teq** (Merck) is a **pentavalent vaccine** recommended to be orally administered in three doses starting at 6-12 weeks of age.

#### **Monovalent vaccine and Pentavalent vaccine**

- Monovalent vaccines are designed to immunize against a **single antigen** or **single microorganism**.
- **Pentavalent vaccine** provides protection to a child from five life-threatening diseases – **Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib)**.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/rotavirus-vaccination-drive>

