

FAST FACTS

A message for health care providers

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Vaccination - Think Tdap instead of Td

The problem

- Pertussis remains a serious threat to infants. More than 50% of infants less than 1 year of age infected with pertussis require hospitalization, about 1 in 5 infants develop pneumonia and about 1 in 100 will have convulsions. In rare cases (1 in 100), pertussis can be deadly, especially in infants. (Source: www.cdc.gov/Features/Pertussis/)
- Many infants who get pertussis are infected by older siblings, parents or caregivers who might not even know they have the disease. (Source: www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/causes-transmission.html)

ACIP Tdap recommendations

- Vaccinate **ALL adolescents and adults 11-64 years of age*** without a contraindication to the vaccine.
- Vaccinate **ALL healthcare personnel** without a contraindication to the vaccine.
- Vaccinate **pregnant or post-partum women** - Tdap should ideally be given prior to pregnancy, but can be given in the 2nd or 3rd trimester. Otherwise, Tdap should be given immediately post-partum.
- Tdap can be administered 2 years after the patient's last Td dose. However, in outbreaks or potential close contact to infants, a shorter interval between Tdap and Td is acceptable (no minimum). It is recommended that routine use of a single Tdap dose replace the next Td booster dose.
- Persons are not protected against pertussis unless they have received a Tdap booster.
- Tdap should be administered with other vaccines that are indicated during the same visit when feasible. Each vaccine should be administered using a separate syringe at a different anatomic site.
- Since 2005 **ACIP, AAP, ACOG, AAFP, and SAHM** have recommended one dose of **Tdap vaccine** as the **standard of care** for anyone age **11-64 years*** without a contraindication to the vaccine.

Things you can do to recognize and increase pertussis vaccination rates in your practice

- Treat every office visit as an immunization opportunity.
- Direct nursing staff to review immunization status as part of triage.
- Hang posters in all patient rooms to remind patients and staff about the importance of immunizations.
- Recognize that clinical presentation of pertussis in adults ranges from mild cough illness to classic pertussis (i.e., prolonged cough characterized by paroxysms, post-tussive vomiting, and inspiratory whoop).

Resources

- Tdap Recommendations www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/combo-vaccines/DTaP-Td-DT/Tdap.htm
- Tdap Vaccine Information Statement www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-td-tdap.pdf
- Pertussis Information www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/default.htm
- Tetanus Information www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/tetanus/default.htm
- Diphtheria Information www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/diphtheria/default.htm
- Immunization schedules www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm
- NYSDOH Immunization Program 847-4385 www.nyhealth.gov/prevention/immunization
- ECDOH Immunization Program 961-6839 www.erie.gov/health/services/immunization.asp

* The official ACIP recommendations state to begin immunizing with Tdap at age 11 years of age. One of the 2 licensed Tdap vaccines, Boostrix, can be given as young as 10 years of age. This is useful for children not yet 11 years old who are entering 6th grade, where NYS mandates Tdap vaccine.