

Why Pertussis matters.....

Pertussis or Whooping cough remains a serious threat to infants. More than one-half of infants who get pertussis must be hospitalized and about 1 in 5 infants with pertussis develop pneumonia.

Studies show when a source of pertussis infection can be identified, 83% are family members or close contacts.

Since 2005 **ACIP, AAP, ACOG, AAFP, and SAM** have recommended one dose of Tdap vaccine as the **standard of care** for anyone age 10-64 years. In January 2011, ACIP expanded these recommendations to include Tdap vaccinations of adults 65 years of age and older (*see below). Recent data on immunization rates indicate that only 6% of adults have been immunized for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Footnote 1).

What can you as a provider do to protect infants?

- Treat every office visit as an opportunity to educate your patients, and then immunize your patients with Tdap vaccine to protect both your patients and the infants they interact with.
- Direct nursing staff to review immunization status as part of the check-in process.

ACIP Tdap recommendations for Tdap vaccination:

- All adolescents and adults ages 10-64 years of age including individuals over 65 years of age as per the January 2011 updated ACIP recommendations.
- Children 7-10 who are not fully vaccinated against pertussis and for whom no contraindication exists should receive a single dose of Tdap to provide protection against pertussis (Footnote 2).
- All healthcare personnel -- to protect themselves and their patients
- Pregnancy -- 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.
- ACIP recommends that pertussis vaccination, when indicated, should not be delayed and that Tdap should be administered regardless of interval since the last tetanus or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine. ACIP concluded that while longer intervals between Td and Tdap vaccination could decrease the occurrence of local reactions, the benefits of protection against pertussis outweigh the potential risk of adverse events (Footnote 2).

Footnote 1: MMWR Dec 15, 2006 Preventing Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis among Adults. Recommendations for the use of Tdap vaccine in Adults.

Footnote 2: MMWR Jan 14, 2011 60(01);13-15 Updated Recommendations for Use of Tetanus Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine from the ACIP, 2010.

(*)http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6001a4.htm?s_cid=mm6001a4_w



PERTUSSIS VACCINE FOR FAMILIES OF INFANTS

Congratulations on the birth of your baby! We are excited to begin our relationship with you and your child as we provide pediatric care for your family.

- We encourage parents, grandparents and caregivers of infants to obtain **pertussis vaccination booster** for themselves as soon as possible after birth of the new baby.
- Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a serious bacterial infection of the lungs.
- Young infants who get pertussis are at risk for lung damage, brain damage and death. Infant vaccines include pertussis (the “P” of DTaP vaccine), but it takes a series of vaccines given over months for the infant’s immune system to establish full protection.
- Immunity from pertussis vaccination in early childhood wears off by about the age of ten. Pertussis infection in older children or adults causes a prolonged cough but is often unrecognized, incorrectly assumed to be a bad cold.
- We know that most babies who get pertussis catch it from a parent, sibling or caregiver.
- When pertussis protection is indicated, vaccination should not be delayed and Tdap should be administered regardless of interval since the last tetanus or diphtheria-toxoid containing vaccine.
- Please schedule an appointment as soon as possible to receive a Tdap vaccine booster for you and everyone over age 10 that interacts with your baby. Children aged 7-10 who are not fully vaccinated against pertussis and for whom no contraindication exists should receive a single dose of Tdap to provide protection.

Talk with your health care provider regarding any questions you may have about this vaccine recommendation or any other vaccine recommendations for you and your family!

Parents:



Protect
Yourself
and Your
Children
from
Whooping
Cough!

Why Whooping Cough is Serious:

Whooping cough (also known as pertussis) is a contagious disease that can be passed easily from person to person. It is very serious for babies and can cause them to cough so much that they cannot breathe. Hundreds of babies are hospitalized each year for whooping cough, and some die from it.

Whooping cough can cause adults or teens to have severe coughing that leads to vomiting or broken ribs. They can be hospitalized for pneumonia and miss weeks of work or school. Even worse, they can spread whooping cough to the babies at home.

Ways to Protect Yourself and Your Family:

Get Your Tetanus Booster (Tdap)

Everybody in the family should be immunized against whooping cough to protect themselves and the baby at home. Parents should ask their doctor for the new Tdap vaccine that includes a tetanus and diphtheria booster and also protects against whooping cough.

Make Sure Your Children are Up-to-Date on Their Immunizations

Children 10 years of age and older can also get the new Tdap booster. Infants and toddlers need four shots against whooping cough, and a booster before starting kindergarten.

Cover Your Cough and Wash Your Hands

Whooping cough is spread by coughing. Remind everyone to cover their mouths when coughing and to wash their hands often.

Protect yourself. Protect your family.

Get Immunized!



Have questions?

Visit www.GetImmunizedCa.org or call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Hotline: 1-877-554-4625.



Grandparents:



Protect
Yourself
and Your
Grandbaby
from
Whooping
Cough!

Why Whooping Cough is Serious:

Whooping cough (also known as pertussis) is a contagious disease that can be passed easily from person to person. It is very serious for babies and can cause them to cough so much that they cannot breathe. Hundreds of babies are hospitalized each year for whooping cough, and some die from it.

Whooping cough can cause adults or teens to have severe coughing that leads to vomiting or broken ribs. They can be hospitalized for pneumonia and miss weeks of work or school. Even worse, they can spread whooping cough to the babies at home.

Ways to Protect Yourself and Your Family:

Get Your Tetanus Booster (Tdap)

Everybody in the family should be immunized against whooping cough to protect themselves and the baby at home. Adults should ask their doctor about the new Tdap vaccine that includes a tetanus and diphtheria booster and also protects against whooping cough.

Make Sure Your Grandchildren are Up-to-Date on Their Immunizations

Children 10 years of age and older can get the new Tdap booster. Infants and toddlers need four shots against whooping cough, and a booster before starting kindergarten.

Cover Your Cough and Wash Your Hands

Whooping cough is spread by coughing. Remind everyone to cover their mouths when coughing and to wash their hands often.

Protect yourself. Protect your family.
Get Immunized!



Have questions?

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Adolescent Pertussis: Signs & Symptoms



Symptoms of Adolescent Pertussis:

What to Watch Out For

- ✦ The first symptoms of pertussis often mimic the symptoms of an upper respiratory infection, a cold or the flu, they are:
 - A low-grade fever
 - A runny nose
 - A cough that progressively becomes more severe
- ✦ Remember:
 - Severe coughing episodes may persist for up to 10 weeks
 - Adolescents generally exhibit different symptoms of the disease, often without the classic "whoop," making it difficult to recognize
 - For these pertussis sufferers, severe coughing episodes can lead to vomiting, a hernia, or even a broken rib
 - Between coughing episodes, it is typical for individuals to appear symptom-free
- ✦ Pertussis is rarely fatal in older children, however the mortality rate is highest in unvaccinated infants who can catch the illness from family members or babysitters

Pertussis Facts & Figures:

Reported Cases have Grown

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- ✦ In 2003, there were over 11,000 cases of pertussis reported in the U.S. This is the highest number reported in nearly 40 years
- ✦ Approximately 40 percent of these cases were in the adolescent population (ages 10 -19)
- ✦ In comparison, approximately 1,000 pertussis cases were reported in 1976
- ✦ Up to 90 percent of household contacts may develop the disease when exposed to people infected with pertussis

Pertussis in Your Community

- ✦ Recent pertussis outbreaks in 2004 have occurred throughout the country in states such as New York, Wisconsin, Illinois, Utah and North Dakota. Recent surges of whooping cough outbreaks have been seen in middle - and high-schools around the country
- ✦ The disease can spread quickly and outbreaks can occur in any community, starting with just one person