



PHARMACIST

POCKET GUIDE: Tdap VACCINE

Important facts about pertussis:

- Pertussis spreads easily from person to person through coughing and sneezing.¹ Persons with pertussis are most infectious through the first 2 weeks after the cough begins (approximately 21 days). Pertussis can be especially serious in young infants and can lead to death²
- Teens and adults, especially those who did not get pertussis vaccines, may have a prolonged (lengthy) cough that keeps them up at night. The cough may last for weeks or months and can cause major disruptions to daily life, as well as complications such as broken ribs and ruptured blood vessels¹

Who should be vaccinated?

General Recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):^{3,4}

- **Adolescents 11-18 years of age:** These persons should receive a single dose of Tdap, preferably at a preventive care visit at age 11–12 years. To ensure continued protection against tetanus and diphtheria, 1 booster dose of either Td or Tdap should be administered every 10 years throughout life
- **Adults 19 years of age and older:** Regardless of the interval since their last tetanus or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine, persons aged ≥ 19 years who have never received a dose of Tdap should receive 1 dose of Tdap. Booster doses of either Td or Tdap should be administered every 10 years throughout life
- **Pregnant women:** Should receive 1 dose of Tdap during each pregnancy. Tdap should be administered at 27–36 weeks' gestation, preferably during the earlier part of this period, although it may be administered at any time during pregnancy
- **Wound management:** Appropriate persons aged ≥ 11 years whose previous tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine was >5 years, Tdap is preferred for persons who have not previously received Tdap or whose Tdap history is unknown. For a pregnant woman, Tdap should be used. For nonpregnant persons with documentation of previous Tdap vaccination, either Td or Tdap may be used

Please refer to the CDC for the complete Tdap vaccination recommendations.

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Who should not be vaccinated?

- Patients who have had a life-threatening allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to a dose of Tdap or to any diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid, or pertussis-containing vaccine, or have a severe allergy to any component of this vaccine⁴
- Patients who developed encephalopathy (e.g., coma, decreased level of consciousness, prolonged seizures) not attributable to another identifiable cause within 7 days of administration of a previous dose of DTP, DTaP, or Tdap^{3,4}

Precautions should be considered when consulting with patients who:⁴

- Have a moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever
- Had Guillain-Barré syndrome within 6 weeks after a previous dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine
- Have a history of Arthus-type hypersensitivity reactions after a previous dose of tetanus or diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccine; defer vaccination until at least 10 years have elapsed since the last tetanus-toxoid containing vaccine

Refer to the prescribing information for each vaccine product for full warnings and precautions.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Pertussis frequently asked questions. <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/faqs.html>. Updated November 18, 2019. Accessed April 8, 2021.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Pertussis. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/pert.html>. Updated December 1, 2020. Accessed April 8, 2021.
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prevention of pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria with vaccines in the United States: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR Recomm Rep*. 69(3);77–83. Updated January 24, 2020.
4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/dtap-tdap-td/hcp/recommendations.html>. Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccine recommendations. Updated January 22, 2020. Accessed April 28, 2021.

