Vaccinate for Pertussis

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends vaccinating both children and adults to help prevent whooping cough, tetanus, and diphtheria.

DIFFERENT PERTUSSIS VACCINES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

**DTaP** vaccine is diphtheria and tetanus toxoids with acellular pertussis. It is given to infants and children age 6 and younger.

**Tdap** vaccine is tetanus and diphtheria toxoids with acellular pertussis. It is given to adolescents and adults.

No vaccine product containing only pertussis antigens is available in the United States.

**Adult Dosing Schedule**

All adults should receive:
- A dose of Tdap
- Subsequent booster doses with Tdap (or Td) every 10 years

Pertussis immunizations should be offered to all adults, especially those at higher risk of contracting pertussis:
- Health-care workers
- Pregnant women
- Patients with chronic respiratory diseases

PERTUSSIS IMMUNITY DECLINES OVER TIME SINCE THE LAST DOSE. ADULTS SHOULD GET A BOOSTER TDAP AT LEAST EVERY 10 YEARS.

**Strategies to Increase Adult Pertussis Vaccination**

Communicate with patients using a presumptive approach.

- List the vaccines that the patient is due for at the current visit.

Health-care providers: Get vaccinated!

- Share recommendations with your patients.

Make it convenient and easy to access.

- Vaccinate for Tdap and influenza at the same time

To learn more, go to chestfoundation.org
**Common Side Effects Reported with Tdap Vaccination**

Injection site reactions:
- Redness
- Tenderness
- Swelling at the injection site

Mild systemic reactions:
- Fever
- Generalized body aches
- Fatigue

**Precautions for Adults Receiving Tdap Vaccine**

Use caution with patients who have:
- History of Guillain-Barré syndrome within 6 weeks after a previous dose of tetanus toxoid
- Arthus reaction after a previous dose of tetanus or diphtheria toxoid–containing vaccine
- Active moderate to severe acute illness

In general, stabilized neurologic conditions are not a precaution or contraindication for adults receiving Tdap vaccines.

**KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT PERTUSSIS**

Having a history of pertussis provides some protection against infection, but immunity wanes after 7-20 years.

Tdap vaccines contain inactivated pertussis antigens, which elicit an immune response in the immunized person but do not cause the disease.

There does not need to be a 10-year interval between Td (tetanus and diphtheria) and Tdap vaccinations. For protection against pertussis, Tdap should be administered to adults regardless of when the last tetanus or diphtheria toxoid–containing vaccine was given.

Reference