

Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis Vaccine Recommendations

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One of the Recommended Vaccines

Below are summaries of recommendations from CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). For the full text of the recommendations, see [DTaP/Tdap/Td ACIP Vaccine Recommendations](#).

Routine Vaccination of Infants, Children, Adolescents, Pregnant Women, and Adults

CDC recommends diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis vaccination across the lifespan. Children younger than 7 years of age receive DTaP or DT, while older children and adults receive Tdap and Td.

- Give infants and children 5 doses of DTaP. Give one dose at each of these ages: 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15 through 18 months, and 4 through 6 years. Use DT for infants and children who should not receive acellular pertussis-containing vaccines.
- Give adolescents a single dose of Tdap, preferably at 11 to 12 years of age.
- Give pregnant women a single dose of Tdap during every pregnancy, preferably during the early part of gestational weeks 27 through 36. CDC only recommends Tdap in the immediate postpartum period for new mothers who did not receive Tdap during their current pregnancy and did not receive a prior dose of Tdap ever (i.e., during adolescence, adulthood, or a previous pregnancy). If a woman did not receive Tdap during her current pregnancy but did receive a prior dose of Tdap, then she should not receive a dose of Tdap postpartum.
- Give adults a single dose of Td every 10 years. For adults who have never received Tdap, a dose of Tdap can replace one of the 10-year Td booster doses. Clinicians can give Tdap regardless of the time since the patient's most recent Td vaccination. (Note: When feasible, Boostrix® should be used for adults 65 years or older; however, either vaccine product administered to a person 65 years or older is valid. Providers should not miss an

opportunity to vaccinate persons aged 65 years or older with Tdap. Therefore, providers may administer the Tdap vaccine they have available.)

Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel

CDC recommends a single dose of Tdap for healthcare personnel who have never received Tdap regardless of the time since their most recent Td vaccination. See [Evaluating Revaccination of Healthcare Personnel](#) for additional information.

Catch-up Guidance for Children 4 Months through 18 Years

The following “job-aid” provides catch-up guidance for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccination for children 4 months through 18 years of age. It includes detailed scenarios by age group and previous number of doses received. This should assist healthcare professionals in interpreting Figure 2 of the [Childhood/Adolescent Immunization Catch-up Schedule](#).

- [Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis-Containing Vaccines Catch-Up Guidance pdf icon\[4 pages\]](#)

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Contraindications and Precautions

Any Diphtheria Toxoid-, Tetanus Toxoid-, or Acellular Pertussis-containing Vaccine

You should not administer diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccines to:

- Patients who have had a severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose
- A person who has a severe allergy to any vaccine component

You may administer diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis vaccines if you and the parent or patient deem the benefits of vaccination to outweigh the risks, to patients who 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
- 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

Guidance Specific to Acellular Pertussis-containing Vaccines

You should not administer acellular pertussis-containing vaccines to:

- 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

You may administer acellular pertussis-containing vaccines to patients with the following conditions once a treatment regimen has been established and the condition has stabilized:

- Progressive or unstable neurologic disorder (including infantile spasms for DTaP)
- Uncontrolled seizures
- Progressive encephalopathy

Guidance Specific to DTaP Only

You may administer DTaP if you and the parent deem the benefits of vaccination to outweigh the risks, to patients who had:

- Temperature of 105°F or higher (40.5°C or higher) within 48 hours after vaccination with a previous dose of DTP/DTaP
- Collapse or shock-like state (i.e., hypotonic hyporesponsive episode) within 48 hours after receiving a previous dose of DTP/DTaP
- Seizure within 3 days after receiving a previous dose of DTP/DTaP
- Persistent, inconsolable crying lasting 3 or more hours within 48 hours after receiving a previous dose of DTP/DTaP

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- [Evaluating Revaccination of Healthcare Personnel with Tdap: Factors to Consider](#)
- [Guidelines for Vaccinating Pregnant Women](#)
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- [Immunization of Health-Care Personnel: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices \(ACIP\)](#)
- [Pertussis Vaccination: Summary of Vaccine Recommendations](#)
- Standing Orders for Administering Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis Vaccines
Immunization Action Coalition
 - [Standing Orders for Administering DTaP to Children Younger than Age 7 Years pdf icon\[1 page\]external icon](#)
 - [Standing Orders for Administering Tdap/Td to Children 7 Years and Older pdf icon\[1 page\]external icon](#)
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