

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) and Tdap Vaccine recommendations for adults

Whooping cough — known medically as Pertussis — is a highly contagious respiratory tract infection. Although it initially resembles an ordinary cold, whooping cough may eventually turn more serious, particularly in infants. Whooping cough is most contagious *before* the coughing starts. The best way to prevent it is through vaccinations. The childhood vaccine is called DTaP. The whooping cough booster vaccine for adolescents and adults is called Tdap. Both protect against whooping cough, tetanus, and diphtheria.

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), is recommending that **adults** and adolescents be immunized with Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, and acellular pertussis) as soon as possible. **The recommendation holds regardless of when the last tetanus and diphtheria toxoids vaccine (Td) was received.**

The recommendation came in response to the recent Pertussis epidemic in California, which has sickened more than 6,200 people and killed 10 infants.

There are two Tdap vaccines available -- Sanofi Pasteur's Adacel and GlaxoSmithKline's Boostrix -- are licensed for use from age 11 (for Adacel) and age 10 (for Boostrix) up to age 64 for both.

Check with your health care provide for information regarding your health needs in relation to this vaccine.

For more info on Pertussis go to:

www.cdc.gov/features/pertussis/www.cdc.gov/features/pertussis/

11/3/10