



Every Child By Two
Carter/Bumpers Champions For Immunization

Pertussis: What You Should Know

Facts About The Disease

- Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, is caused by a bacterial infection (*Bordetella pertussis*) that produces intense fits of coughing. It can cause spells so bad that it is hard for infants and children to eat, drink, eat, or breathe for weeks. It is spread from exposure to infected persons through droplets in the air (coughing and sneezing), and is highly contagious.
- Pertussis can lead to pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, mental retardation, and death.
- Approximately 1 in 250 people who become infected with pertussis develop a brain disorder called encephalopathy. And in even rarer cases, pertussis can be deadly.
- Ninety percent (90%) of pertussis-associated deaths have been among babies less than one year old.

Protect Your Loved Ones

- **Pertussis is the only vaccine preventable disease that is on the rise in the U.S.** Before the vaccine for pertussis was developed there were about 200,000 cases of pertussis annually in the United States with about 8,000 deaths from the disease yearly. In 2008, there were more than 10,000 reported cases although the CDC estimates that the actual number of cases may reach as high as one million annually. In 2010, pertussis was declared an epidemic in several states that are experiencing high incidence of the disease that resulted in the deaths of numerous infants.
- During a pertussis outbreak, children who have received all their pertussis vaccinations are **six times less likely** to become infected than those who have never been vaccinated.
- Seventy percent (70%) of infants who contract pertussis are infected by their own family members. Most unvaccinated children living with a family member with pertussis will contract the disease.
- Children should receive **5 doses of DTaP**, a combined tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis vaccine. One dose at each of the following ages: 2, 4, 6, 15-18 months and 4-6 years.
- **Tdap**, a combined tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis vaccine, is given to adolescents and adults.
 - Adolescents should receive one dose of Tdap between 11 and 12 years of age. Adolescents older than 12 years who have not received the vaccine should receive Tdap at the first opportunity. Their next regular tetanus and diphtheria booster should be Td, which is then given every 10 years.
 - Adults who didn't get Tdap as a teenager should get one dose of Tdap instead of the Td booster. The dose of Tdap can be given as soon as 2 years after a previous dose of Td, so it's a good idea for adults to talk to a healthcare provider about what's best for their specific situation.
 - Those considering pregnancy should talk to their doctors about attaining a Tdap vaccination (if indicated) prior to conception.



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- Pregnant women who have not received a Tdap vaccination should talk with their OB/GYN prior to giving birth about vaccination prior to discharge from the hospital.
- Tdap is particularly important for caregivers and families of newborns, including healthcare workers. Parents should proactively request that all those who will be in contact with the newborn obtain a Tdap vaccination prior to delivery to protect the infant until the time he or she is fully vaccinated for pertussis.

Vaccination Recommendations & Disease Information:

- Recommendation of ACIP, supported by the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), for Use of Tdap Among Health-Care Personnel
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5517.pdf#20>
- Recommendations of the ACIP for the Prevention of Pertussis, Tetanus, and Diphtheria Among Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Their Infants
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5704a1.htm>
- Standing Orders for Administering DTaP to Children Younger than Age 7 Years:
<http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3073.pdf>
- Standing Orders for Administering Tetanus-Diphtheria Toxoids & Pertussis Vaccine (Td/Tdap) to Adults <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p3078.pdf>
- Pink Book, Epidemiology & Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/pert.pdf>

Vaccine Advocacy Resources:

- Every Child By Two: <http://www.ecbt.org/parents/diseasevaccine.cfm>
- Every Child By Two's Vaccinate Your Baby Campaign site:
<http://www.vaccinateyourbaby.org/why/history/pertussis.cfm>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/Pertussis/>
- Immunization Action Coalition: <http://www.immunize.org/pertussis/>
- Children's Hospital of Philadelphia: <http://www.chop.edu/healthinfo/whooping-cough-pertussis.html>
- Information About Pertussis from the American Academy of Pediatrics
<http://www.aap.org/immunization/illnesses/dtp/pertussis.html>
- PKIDs: http://www.pkids.org/dis_pert_stsop.php
- March of Dimes' Sounds of Pertussis Campaign: <http://www.soundsofpertussis.com>

For more information, please email info@ecbt.org or call 202-783-7034

www.ecbt.org & www.vaccinateyourbaby.org

Get the Facts. Vaccines Saves Lives.