



Division of Public Health Services

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Dear Healthcare Provider:

Pertussis is a vaccine-preventable disease that causes severe coughing in all ages, but it is more likely to kill infants. In Arizona in 2013 there were 1431 reported cases of pertussis (numbers still provisional), the highest numbers of cases that Arizona has seen since the 1950's.

Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine) has been licensed in the U.S. for adolescents, and adults since 2005. However, as of 2012, only about 14% of adults in the U.S. have received Tdap.¹ Yet 56% of the time it is adults who are responsible for infecting infants with pertussis, and 20% of the time adolescents spread pertussis to infants.²

In order to improve pertussis vaccination among adolescents and adults, the Arizona Department of Health Services recommends the following:

- Adolescents and adults need a single dose of Tdap.³
- Tdap can be given regardless of the time interval since the last tetanus toxoid or diphtheria toxoid containing vaccine.³
- When tetanus vaccine (Td) is indicated for catch-up vaccination or for wound management, individuals ≥ 7 years old should receive a Tdap in place of a Td if they have not already received a Tdap.^{3,4}
- All healthcare personnel should receive a dose of Tdap.⁵
- Pregnant women should receive a Tdap during every pregnancy, optimally in the third trimester or late second trimester.⁶

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Noninfluenza Vaccine Coverage Among Adults—United States, 2012. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*. [February 7, 2014](#).
2. Bisgard KM, Pascual FB, Ehresmann KR, et al. Infant Pertussis: Who Was the Source? *Pediatric Infectious Disease Journal*. [November 2004](#).
3. CDC. Updated Recommendations for Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, 2010. *MMWR*. [January 14, 2011](#).
4. Preventing Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis Among Adults: Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine. [December 15, 2006](#).
5. CDC. Immunization of Healthcare Personnel. *MMWR Recommendations and Reports*. [November 25, 2011](#).
6. CDC. Updated Recommendations for Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap) in Pregnant Women — Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2012. *MMWR*. [February 22, 2013](#).

For additional information, see www.cdc.gov/pertussis/vaccines/html.