



HOW TO FIND LOCATIONS THAT OFFER PERTUSSIS VACCINE (Tdap) TO ADULTS

Pertussis (whooping cough) is a serious respiratory infection that can infect people of any age and can be lethal to babies and young children. Pertussis vaccines are given to children starting in infancy. Until recently, pertussis vaccines were only approved for use in children up to 6 years of age. However, immunity from pertussis vaccines wears off with time. Therefore, in 2005, a pertussis vaccine was approved for use in people 10-64 years of age. This pertussis vaccine is known as Tdap because in addition to being a vaccine against pertussis, it is also gives protection against tetanus and diphtheria.

Teenagers and adults are the people who most commonly spread pertussis infection to babies and young children. Therefore, it is very important that child care workers are fully vaccinated against pertussis so that they do not spread pertussis to a young child who could die from it.

Although Tdap is licensed for ages 10-64 years, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention voted on 10/28/2010 to recommend that Tdap also be given to those 65 years and older if they have close contact with an infant. Therefore, with time it will get easier for people 65 years and older to find a place to get a whooping cough vaccine.

Important Points to Consider

- The retail cost for Tdap may range from \$60-\$70.
- Not all health insurance plans cover immunizations such as Tdap. Check with your health insurance company to see what is covered in your plan.
- Some health care providers may not carry Tdap in their offices.
- Pharmacies with certified physicians can give most vaccines (including Tdap) to adults 18 years and older without a doctor's prescription. However, a pharmacy does need to have a prescription in order to give a vaccine to someone out of the licensed age group (such as giving Tdap to someone 65 years or older),
- In most cases, pharmacies do not have contracts with insurance companies, so the patient is responsible for the cost of vaccines.
- Tdap is not routinely given to pregnant women but can be used in special circumstances
- Teenagers who are 18 years and younger without vaccine insurance coverage qualify to receive Tdap without charge through the federally funded Vaccine For Children (VFC) program. County health departments as well as many pediatricians and family practice physicians carry VFC vaccine for children.
- Federally Qualified Health Centers usually offer Tdap and can often work with patients to adjust the price based on the patient's ability to pay.



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Questions to Ask as You Choose a Place to Get Tdap

- If you have health insurance, check with your insurance company to see if your plan covers Tdap.
- Call the health care location and ask them:
 - Are they offering Tdap (the pertussis vaccine for teenagers and adults)?
 - Do they have Tdap in stock or do they need to order it?
 - Do you need a prescription from your regular doctor?
 - What is the price for Tdap?
 - Does the health care location take your insurance or do you need to pay cash?

Resources to Contact for Getting Tdap

The following locations may have Tdap. Call these locations in your area for more details about Tdap availability, age ranges, ability to take your insurance, cost, hours of operation, and addresses.

- Many private physicians, medical clinics, urgent care clinics, and walk-in clinics including:
 - Mollen Clinic (Maricopa County) www.DrArtMollen.com
 - Passport Health (Maricopa County) <http://www.passporthealthaz.com>
 - Concentra (Flagstaff, Tucson, and Maricopa County) <http://maps.concentra.com/CorporateV3/ListSearch.aspx>
- Pharmacies with vaccine-certified pharmacists
- County health departments
- Indian Health Service
- Federally Qualified Health Centers. These can be found at <http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov>

In addition, a web page that promotes Adacel® (a brand of Tdap) contains a long list of physicians, clinics, and pharmacies throughout Arizona and the United States that carry Tdap: <http://www.adacel-locator.com>