

# Tdap

**Tdap stands for Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis. Tdap is a vaccine that keeps you from getting all 3 of these serious infections. Here is what you need to know.**



*Ask your doctor if you need a Tdap shot.*

### What does the Tdap shot protect against?

- **Tetanus** causes pain in the muscles and can lead to locking of the jaw and death. It enters your body through cuts, scratches or wounds.
- **Diphtheria** causes a thick covering in the back of your throat. It can lead to breathing problems and death.
- **Pertussis** causes a lot of coughing called “whooping cough”. It can lead to being admitted to the hospital. It is also a serious infection for babies less than six months old.

The tetanus shot wears off after 10 years. You may get a Tdap shot 2 years after your last tetanus shot.

### Who should get the Tdap shot?

- If you are under 65 years old, you need to get the Tdap shot at least one time.
- If you are around babies less than 12 months old.
- If you are a new mother and have not had the Tdap shot in the last 2 years.
- If you are a health care worker with direct patient contact.

**Ask your doctor** if you need a Tdap shot.

**Tell your doctor** if you have any allergies or if you have had a problem with a shot.

**Tell your doctor** if you had an allergic reaction after receiving a tetanus shot.

### Questions to ask your doctor:

- How serious are tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why is it so important to keep from getting tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis? \_\_\_\_\_
- What are the side effects of the Tdap shot? \_\_\_\_\_
- What should I do if I have a side effect when I get the Tdap shot? \_\_\_\_\_
- Who else in my family should get the Tdap shot? \_\_\_\_\_
- Where do I get the Tdap shot if my doctor does not have a supply? \_\_\_\_\_
- Can I have a card that lists all of my shots? \_\_\_\_\_



*Pertussis causes a lot of coughing.*



*New mothers need a Tdap shot if they haven't had one in two years.*

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For more information, go to <http://www.immunize.org/vis/tdap.pdf>.

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