

Pertussis(Whooping Cough)/Tetanus/Diphtheria Vaccine for Families of Infants

We encourage parents and caregivers of infants to obtain a **pertussis/tetanus/diphtheria vaccination booster** as soon as possible.

- Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a serious bacterial infection of the lungs. It is a contagious disease that can be passed easily from person to person.
- We know that most babies who get pertussis catch it from a parent, sibling or caregiver.
- Young infants who get pertussis are at risk for lung damage, brain damage and death. Infant vaccines include pertussis (the “P” of DTaP vaccine), but it takes a series of vaccines given over months for the infant’s immune system to establish full protection.
- Immunity from pertussis vaccination in early childhood wears off by about the age of ten. Pertussis infection in older children or adults causes a prolonged cough, but is often unrecognized or incorrectly assumed to be a bad cold.
- We recommend that parents and caregivers of infants receive a **Tdap** booster. This is a combination pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria vaccine, and **also counts as a tetanus booster**. Siblings age 11 and up should also receive Tdap vaccine.
- Please schedule an appointment with your health care provider as soon as possible to receive your Tdap booster. Everyone age 11 or older who interacts with your baby should also receive a Tdap vaccine.

Talk with your health care provider regarding any questions you may have about this vaccine recommendation or any other vaccine recommendations for you and your family!