1. Are you sick today?
   • There is no evidence that acute illness reduces vaccine efficacy or increases vaccine adverse events (1). However, as a precaution with moderate or severe illness, all vaccines should be delayed until the illness has improved. Mild illnesses (such as upper respiratory infections or diarrhea) are NOT contraindications to vaccination. Do not withhold vaccination if a person is taking antibiotics.

2. Do you have Guillain-Barre Syndrome?
   • If a person has Guillain-Barre Syndrome it doesn't mean they can't get the vaccine, but they should talk with their primary health care provider before doing so.

3. Have you ever had a reaction to any vaccine?
   • History of anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of vaccine or vaccine component is a contraindication for subsequent doses (1). Under normal circumstances, vaccines are deferred when a precaution is present. However, situations may arise when the benefit outweighs the risk (i.e. during a community Pertussis outbreak). In this case, please advise to consult with primary health care provider prior to vaccine administration.

4. Do you have a history of seizures?
   • Tdap is contraindicated in people who have a history of encephalopathy within 7 days following DTaP given before age 7 years. An unstable progressive neurologic problem is a precaution to the use of Tdap. For people with stable neurologic disorders (including previous seizures) unrelated to vaccination, or for people with a family history of seizure, vaccinate as usual.

5. Are you pregnant?
   • Tdap is now recommended for pregnant women greater than 20 weeks gestation and supported by ACOG (2, 3).

References:

1. CDC. General recommendations on immunization, at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/acip-list.htm
2. CDC. Prevention of pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria among pregnant and postpartum women and their infants: Recommendations of the ACIP. MMWR 2008; 57 (RR-4).