Pertussis and Tdap Quick Facts

**Pertussis Info:**
- Highly contagious, bacterial, respiratory disease
- Pertussis can cause serious and sometimes life-threatening complications in infants and young children, especially those who are not fully vaccinated.
- Symptoms of Pertussis usually develop within 7-10 days after being exposed, but sometimes not for as long as 6 weeks.
- Pertussis in its early stages is similar to the common cold and is often not suspected or diagnosed until the more severe symptoms appear.
- Patients are most infectious during the catarrhal and early paroxysmal phases of illness and can remain infectious for ≥6 weeks.

![Disease Progression](http://media.al.com/breaking/photo/pertussis-symptom-progression-e1bcc8eaf5999eea.jpg)

- In infants younger than 1 year of age who get Pertussis, more than half must be hospitalized. The younger the infant, the more likely treatment in the hospital will be needed. Of those infants who are hospitalized with Pertussis about:
  - 1 in 5 get pneumonia (lung infection)
  - 1 in 100 will have convulsions (violent, uncontrolled shaking)
  - Half will have apnea (slowed or stopped breathing)
  - 1 in 250 will have encephalopathy (disease of the brain)
  - 1 in 100 will die

**Vaccination Info:**
- Tdap is the vaccination used for prevention of Pertussis in adolescents and adults 10 years of age and up, however, it can be given as young as 7 if a child isn’t up to date on their DTaP series.
Infants and children receive the DTaP vaccination—in 5 doses—beginning at 2 months of age, then at 4 months, 6 months, 15-18 months, and finally at 4-6 years of age.

Td is the vaccine available for immunization against Tetanus and Diphtheria. We should always be offering the Tdap, instead of the Td, for anyone who has had a previous or expired Td immunization.

If you received the Td in 2002, 2010, or even yesterday, you are still eligible to receive the Tdap today. There is no necessary waiting time required between the two vaccinations.

Receiving the Tdap vaccine DOES NOT mean a person is 100% protected against Pertussis. Pertussis is similar to Influenza in that there are multiple strains of the disease. The Tdap vaccine has been shown to have an approximate successful immunization rate of 80-85%. However, if you do receive the Tdap vaccine and do get Pertussis, the severity in which you have the disease will be less than if you received no vaccine at all.

At this time, the current recommendation is that the Tdap vaccine is a one-time vaccination, however, because the Tetanus portion of the vaccine is recommended every 10 years, Tdap could be given at that interval as well.

Parents and family members may be unaware that they could potentially pass Pertussis to vulnerable infants. This may explain why, despite CDC recommendations, only 6% of adults reported Pertussis immunization with Tdap from 2005 through 2008.

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<tr>
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<th>Tdap</th>
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<tr>
<td>Protects Against</td>
<td>Tetanus, Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis</td>
<td>Tetanus and Diphtheria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Target Age Range</td>
<td>10 yrs and up; can also be given from 7yrs-10yrs in those children who didn’t start or complete the DTaP series</td>
<td>7 yrs and up</td>
<td>Infants and children less than 7 yrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration Schedule</td>
<td>One time dose, but can be given as the tetanus booster every 10 years thereafter</td>
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<td>2 mo, 4 mo, 6 mo, 15-18 mo, and 4-6 yrs</td>
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Make sure you view the following links at a computer with sound.

- Natalie’s story—click link below, then click on 1. What is Pertussis (bottom left of screen), then click on the big triangle when you hover over her face http://www.soundofpertussis.com
- The sound of whooping cough—click link below and press play in center of page http://www.pkids.org/diseases/pertussis.html
References:

- www.soundsofpertussis.com
- www.cdc.gov/pertussis