



Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (T.D.A.P.) Vaccine

T.d.a.p. (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis) vaccine can protect adolescents against three serious diseases.

Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis are all caused by bacteria. Diphtheria and pertussis are spread from person to person. Tetanus enters the body through cuts or wounds.

Tetanus (Lockjaw) causes painful tightening of the muscles, usually all over the body. It can lead to “locking” of the jaw so the victim cannot open his mouth or swallow. Tetanus leads to death in up to 2 cases out of 10.

Diphtheria causes a thick covering in the back of the throat. It can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure, and even death.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) causes coughing spells that can make it hard to eat, drink, or breathe.

It can lead to pneumonia, seizures (jerking and staring spells), brain damage, and death, especially in infants. In 2004 there were more than 25,000 cases of pertussis in the U.S. More than 8,000 of these cases were among adolescents 11 through 18 years of age. Up to 2 in 100 adolescents with pertussis are hospitalized or have complications.

Who should get t.d.a.p. vaccine and when?

Adolescents 11 through 18 years of age should get one booster dose of T.D.A.P... Later booster doses should be given using T.d.

A dose of T.D.A.P. is recommended for adolescents who have gotten D.T.a.P. or D.T.P. as children but not gotten a dose of T.d. The preferred age is 11 or 12.

Adolescents who have already gotten a booster dose of T.d. are encouraged to get a dose of T.D.A.P. as well, for protection against pertussis.

Adolescents who did not get all their scheduled doses of D.T.a.P. or D.T.P. as children should complete the series using a combination of T.d. and T.D.A.P...

An adolescent who gets a severe cut or burn might need protection against tetanus infection. T.D.A.P. may be used if the person has not had a previous dose. Otherwise, T.d. is recommended.

Some people should not get t.d.a.p. vaccine or should wait.

Anyone who has had a life-threatening allergic reaction after a dose of D.T.P., D.T.a.P., D.T., or T.d vaccine should not get T.D.A.P...

Anyone who has a severe allergy to any component of the vaccine should not get T.D.A.P. Tell us if the person getting the vaccine has any known severe allergies.

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Talk us if the person getting the vaccine has a severe allergy to latex. Some T.D.A.P. vaccine may be given to people with a severe latex allergy, and some should not.

Anyone who went into a coma or had a long seizure within 7 days after a dose of D.T.P. or D.T.a.P. should not get T.D.A.P., unless a cause other than the vaccine was found.

Talk to us if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has epilepsy or another nervous system problem,
- Had severe swelling or severe pain after a previous dose of any vaccine containing tetanus, diphtheria or pertussis,
- Has had Guillain Barré Syndrome (G.B.S.).

T.D.A.P. may be given during pregnancy.

Anyone who has a moderate or severe illness on the day the shot is scheduled should usually wait until they recover before getting the vaccine.

What are the risks from t.d.a.p. vaccine?

A vaccine, like any medicine, could possibly cause serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. However, the risk of a vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small.

A person who gets tetanus, diphtheria or pertussis disease is at much higher risk of severe complications than a person who gets T.d.a.p. vaccine.

Mild Problems:

- Pain (about 7 in 10).
- Redness or swelling (about 1 in 5).
- Mild fever (at least 99.5°F) (up to about 1 in 10).
- Headache (about 4 in 10).
- Tiredness (less than 1 in 3).
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea (about 1 in 5).
- Other mild problems reported include chills, body aches, sore joints, rash, and swollen lymph nodes.

Moderate Problems:

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- Severe pain at the injection site (about 1 in 20).
- Severe redness or swelling (up to about 1 in 16).
- Fever over 102 degrees Fahrenheit (about 1 in 100).

Severe Problems:

- None found among adolescents.
- A severe allergic reaction could occur after any vaccine. These are estimated to occur less than once in a million doses.

In one clinical trial, two adults had nervous system problems after getting the vaccine. They may or may not have been caused by the vaccine. These problems went away on their own and did not cause any permanent harm.

If rare reactions occur with any new product, they may not be identified until many thousands, or millions, of people have used the product. Like all vaccines, T.d.a.p. is being monitored for unusual or severe problems.

What if there is a severe reaction?

Any unusual condition, such as a high fever or behavior changes. Signs of a serious allergic reaction can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness.

What should I do?

Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.

Ask your doctor, nurse, or health department to report the reaction by filing a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form.

Or you can file this report through the VAERS website at [w.w.w. dot v.a.e.r.s. dot h.h.s. dot g.o.v.](http://www.vaers.hhs.gov), or by calling 1-800-822-7967.

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.

In the event that you or your child has a serious reaction to a vaccine, a federal program has been created to help pay for the care of those who have been harmed.

For details about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, call 1-800-338-2382 or visit their website at [w.w.w. dot h.r.s.a. dot g.o.v. slash o.s.p. slash v.i.c.p.](http://www.hrsa.gov/ovs/vicp)

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