

# A Quick Look at Using Td (Tetanus, diphtheria) Vaccine

## Indications for Use

- Persons aged 7 years and older
- Persons with a contraindication to pertussis vaccine

## Routine Vaccination

- Previously did not receive Tdap at or after age 11 years:
  - 1 dose Tdap, then Td booster every 10 years

## Catch-Up Schedule

- Adolescents 13-18 years who have not received Tdap:
  - 1 dose Tdap, then Td booster every 10 years

\*For further guidance on catch-up of those not fully immunized see “Additional Catch-Up Schedule Guidance” below

## Vaccine Administration

- Administer **intramuscular (IM)** in the deltoid of the arm (preferred) or anterolateral thigh
- 1- to 1.5-inch needle; 22-25 gauge
- Use professional judgment when selecting needle length
- Can be given simultaneously with other vaccines
  - Use separate sites, space at least 1-inch apart

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## Storage and Handling

- Store vaccine in the refrigerator at **36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C)**
- Do **not** freeze
- Pharmaceutical-grade (purpose-built) units are preferred for vaccine storage
- Keep in the original box
- Shake well before use
- Store apart from similar vaccines (DTaP, Tdap)

## Additional Catch-Up Schedule Guidance

- Persons 7-18 years not fully immunized with DTaP and persons 19 years and older who did not complete a primary vaccination series for tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis need to complete a primary series:
  - Number of doses needed to complete the series depends on age at the 1<sup>st</sup> dose:
    - If 1<sup>st</sup> dose given less than 12 months, 4 doses are recommended
    - If 1<sup>st</sup> dose given at 12 months or older, 3 doses are recommended
  - Give 1 dose Tdap as part of the catch-up series (preferably the 1<sup>st</sup> dose); if additional doses are needed, use Td
  - Minimum intervals between doses:
    - Dose 1 to 2     4 weeks
    - Dose 2 to 3     Varies\*
    - Dose 3 to 4     6 months

\*8 weeks if 1<sup>st</sup> dose given less than 12 months of age OR 6 months if 1<sup>st</sup> dose given at 12 months of age and older

## NOTE ON TDAP

- All adolescents and adults should receive 1 dose of Tdap vaccine to protect them from pertussis, even if they have already received Td (it is important to do this right away)
- There is **no minimum interval** needed between the last dose of Td and a Tdap dose

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Anaphylactic reaction to a prior dose of tetanus- or diphtheria-containing vaccine (DTaP/DT/Tdap/Td) or to a component of the vaccine

## PRECAUTIONS

- Moderate or severe illness with or without fever
- History of Arthus-type hypersensitivity reactions after a previous dose of tetanus- or diphtheria-containing vaccine; defer vaccination until at least 10 years have elapsed since the last tetanus-containing vaccine, even for tetanus prophylaxis as part of wound management
- History of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks after a previous dose of tetanus-containing vaccine

## WOUND CARE

- Td or Tdap is indicated as part of wound management if more than 5 years have passed since the last tetanus-containing vaccine dose
- Persons 7 years or older who are **not fully immunized against pertussis, tetanus, or diphtheria** should receive 1 dose of Tdap for wound management and as part of the catch-up series
- Tdap is preferred for persons 11 years and older who did not receive Tdap before or whose Tdap history is unknown
- If indicated and Td is unavailable, Tdap may be administered
- Persons with wounds that are neither clean nor minor and who have had fewer than 3 prior doses of tetanus-containing vaccine or have an unknown history of prior doses should receive tetanus immune globulin (TIG) as well as Td or Tdap
  - If Td/Tdap and TIG are administered simultaneously, separate limbs should be used for each injection
- If a contraindication to tetanus-containing vaccine exists, TIG should be considered for any injury not clean or minor
- For further guidance review see "Tetanus Prophylaxis Guidelines," at: [www.michigan.gov/vaccinequicklooks](http://www.michigan.gov/vaccinequicklooks)

## PREGNANT WOMEN

- ACIP recommends a pertussis-containing vaccine during every pregnancy; if Td is inadvertently administered to a pregnant woman, she can receive her Tdap dose at any interval since the Td dose, preferably between 27-36 weeks gestation
- Pregnant women who have **completed the childhood DTaP series** and were last vaccinated more than 10 years ago should receive a booster dose of tetanus-containing vaccine to prevent neonatal tetanus
  - Since Tdap is routinely recommended during each pregnancy, the pregnancy Tdap dose also provides this tetanus protection
- Pregnant women **without a complete diphtheria-, tetanus-, pertussis-containing vaccine history** should follow the catch-up schedule to ensure protection

## FURTHER POINTS

- Ensure you use the right vaccine for the right age!
  - Refer to "A Quick Look at Using DTaP" and "A Quick Look at Using Tdap" for updated information on these vaccines at [www.michigan.gov/vaccinequicklooks](http://www.michigan.gov/vaccinequicklooks)
- Due to waning immunity, it is critical that adults receive a booster dose of tetanus- and diphtheria-containing vaccine every 10 years to be protected; assess the immunization status of patients at both acute and preventative health visits
- Medical settings should continue to stock Td vaccine in order to administer it to patients who need to complete the full primary 3-dose tetanus and diphtheria series and also to administer 10-year booster doses of Td throughout the lifetime for those who have completed the primary series (it is acceptable to administer Tdap if Td is not available)
- Tetanus or diphtheria infections do not necessarily confer immunity against re-infection; therefore, active vaccination should be initiated at the time of recovery from the illness according to the schedule
- Local reactions such as pain at the injection site, redness, and swelling are common after a Td vaccination
- Instruct patients/parents on comfort measures such as cool compresses, the use of over-the-counter pain medication such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, and exercising the arm; aspirin is not recommended for children 18 years and younger
- Use CDC's catch-up job aid, "Catch-Up Guidance for Children 7 through 18 Years of Age: Tdap/Td" at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/job-aids/tdap.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/downloads/child/job-aids/tdap.pdf)
- The Td Vaccine Information Statement (VIS), including information about the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR), can be found at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize) or your local health department
- Document as "Td" in MCIR, on the vaccine administration record, and on the immunization record card

Publicly purchased Td vaccine can be administered to eligible children 12 months through 18 years of age through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program. Eligible children include those who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid eligible, Native American, or Alaskan Natives. Contact your local health department for more information.

Td is also available through the Michigan Adult Vaccine Replacement Program (MI-VRP) and through Adult Medicaid. For persons covered by Adult Medicaid, private stock should be used and billed to Medicaid.

For additional information: MMWR: "Prevention of Pertussis, Tetanus and Diphtheria with Vaccines in the United States 2018: Summary Recommendations of the ACIP" (April 27, 2018) at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines).