



What you need to know about the **DTaP/Tdap vaccine** (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis)

DTaP and Tdap are combination vaccines that protect against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. DTaP is for infants and children, while Tdap is for teens and adults. Tetanus bacteria enter the body through open cuts and wounds, while pertussis (which is commonly known as whooping cough) and diphtheria spread through things like sneezing and coughing. To learn more, read the questions and answers below. Talk to your primary care provider about DTaP/Tdap and other recommended vaccines.

When are DTaP/Tdap vaccines given?

DTaP vaccines are given in five doses to infants and children under age 7, starting at two months old. Pre-teens get a single dose of Tdap between ages 11-12. Adults who had not previously received the Tdap vaccine can get a single dose at any time, with a booster every 10 years.

How effective are the DTaP and Tdap vaccines?

Thanks to safe and effective immunization, cases of diphtheria and tetanus are rare in the United States. Whooping cough is still common because it is very contagious and spreads quickly. That's why getting vaccinated is important – vaccination is the most effective way to prevent all three diseases.

Are there any side effects from getting the vaccine?

The most common side effect is soreness at the injection site. Some people may experience mild, temporary side effects, such as a brief period of fever or lightheadedness. Receiving DTaP/Tdap vaccination is much safer and has fewer side effects than the diseases they prevent.

Are DTaP/Tdap vaccines safe?

Decades of research and use show that vaccines reduce the spread of disease. DTaP/Tdap vaccines are safe for most people, but there are some exceptions. Talk to your primary care provider about any allergies or health concerns before getting vaccinated.

Should pregnant women get the vaccine?

One dose of Tdap in the third trimester is recommended to help protect the baby from whooping cough in his or her first few months of life. Whooping cough can be severe for infants. This immunization protects them from whooping cough until they are old enough to be vaccinated at two months of age.

To learn more about DTaP/Tdap vaccines or other routine immunizations for your family, talk to your primary care provider or visit beimmunekansas.org.

