



**FROM:** Immunization Program  
San Francisco Department of Public Health

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**Please Post**

## **Pertussis Prevention with Vaccination During Epidemic**

Universal immunization with pertussis-containing vaccine is recommended for children and adults. Immunity from both the vaccine and prior infection wanes over time. In response to the current epidemic of pertussis in the State of California, we are recommending the following actions:

- ✓ Follow the accelerated infant DTaP schedule if feasible (1st dose at 6 weeks, 2nd and 3rd doses at 4 week intervals) per AAP 2009. Other childhood vaccinations may be given on this same schedule.
- ✓ Administer Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine to all adolescents and adults who have not yet received an adult dose of Tdap.
  - There are two brands of Tdap available: **Adacel** (Sanofi-Pasteur) and **Boostrix** (GlaxoSmithKline). Regular tetanus booster vaccine (Td) does not contain the pertussis component. Childhood DTaP vaccine contains higher antigen concentration and is not recommended for use in adults.
  - Highest priority adults for vaccination are those who are pregnant, those who have close contact with an infant <12 months old, a pregnant woman or a new mother, and those who are health care workers.
  - Vaccine may be given off-label to adults 65 years and older, especially those who are in contact with an infant.
  - Tdap may be given at any time following the last dose of Td - there is no minimum interval required. (Risk of a severe local injection reaction may theoretically be higher with Td-Tdap intervals under 2 years, but evidence for this is slight, and is currently outweighed in light of the epidemic).
- ✓ Pregnancy is not a contraindication to Tdap vaccine. Use Tdap to proactively vaccinate pregnant women in their third trimester, and every adult who is a close contact of a pregnant woman or a new mother.
- ✓ If your practice does not carry/offer Tdap vaccine, consider the following:
  - Order vaccine for your patients. Your regular pharmaceutical supplier should carry the vaccine, if not, visit [www.sfdcp.org/pertussisiz](http://www.sfdcp.org/pertussisiz) for assistance.
  - Local drug stores such as Walgreens, Safeway and others carry Tdap and will immunize.
  - The Adult Immunization and Travel Clinic (AITC) at 101 Grove currently has a Tdap promotion. Vaccine is discounted to \$35 for everyone and further discounted to \$10 for close contacts of infants less than one year of age - [www.sfdcp.org/aitc](http://www.sfdcp.org/aitc).
- ✓ Check the SFDPH website at [www.sfdcp.org](http://www.sfdcp.org) for additional patient and provider materials, updates on the epidemic and further information about disease reporting or vaccine.