



## Vax Facts January 24, 2019

### Prevent Infant Pertussis: Tdap Dose Every Pregnancy

**Rationale:** Pertussis in the first 3-4 months of life can be severe and occasionally fatal. The DTaP vaccine series in infants is vital but is not yet protective during this vulnerable period. Immunization of the mother during pregnancy fills the gap by transferring passive maternal pertussis antibody to the fetus, thereby protecting the newborn during early infancy. Tdap vaccination has been shown to be safe and does not interfere with the infant's immune response to DTaP vaccination. **Maternal Tdap during the 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of each pregnancy is our best strategy to prevent infant pertussis.**

**Recommendations:** (CDC, ACOG, and AAP)

- Administer Tdap to all pregnant women during each pregnancy and give the Tdap dose as early as possible during the period from 27 to 36 weeks of gestation.
- If not administered during pregnancy, give Tdap vaccine immediately postpartum.
- Administer seasonal influenza vaccine to all women who are or who will be pregnant during influenza season. Tdap and flu vaccines may be given concomitantly.
- Give Tdap and influenza vaccine in the prenatal care provider's office, if possible.

See: [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/rr/rr6702a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/rr/rr6702a1.htm) and [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/rr/rr6703a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/rr/rr6703a1.htm)

#### How can the San Francisco Department of Public Health help?

- **Request a free, on-site vaccine storage and handling check-up.** Proper management of temperature-controlled vaccines can be challenging for prenatal care practices. Call us at (415) 554 – 2955 to request our friendly, experienced staff to come to your office, review your equipment and practices, and offer training and recommendations that can help you improve.
- **Tell us what barriers you are facing.** Call us at (415) 554 – 2955 and let us know. For example:
  - Are you limited in your ability to buy an approved refrigerator or thermometers?
  - Would it help if we could assist you to obtain free Tdap that could be used to vaccinate your uninsured or under-insured pregnant patients?
  - Do you need a local site where you can refer family and close contacts of your pregnant patients to get a free or low-cost Tdap?

#### **Program Contact Information:**

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