

Nevada State Health Division
Technical Bulletin



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| Topic: | Use of Tdap vaccine in ERs, Urgent Care Centers, and Health Care Workers | Bureau/Program: Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness/ Immunization Program |
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| To: | ERs, Urgent Care Centers, Hospital Administrators, HCQC, Nevada Hospital Association | |
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**Use of Tdap Vaccine Instead of Td in
ERs, Urgent Care Centers, and for Health Care Workers**

UPDATED

Hospitals, emergency rooms, and urgent care centers are strongly encouraged to administer the tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine instead of the tetanus and diphtheria (Td) vaccine to patients and health care workers whenever tetanus is indicated. This recommendation is in response to reducing the incidence of pertussis (whooping cough) in the state of Nevada. This is also recommended by the Joint Commission in their new monograph, available at <http://www.jointcommission.org/tdap/>.

Nationally, pertussis outbreaks are on the rise. One of the largest outbreaks remains ongoing in California, resulting in an epidemic of over 9,477 cases and 10 infant deaths in 2010 alone. With Nevada sharing a continuous border with California, reducing the potential spread of pertussis is crucial to protect all our citizens.

Pertussis is highly infectious and is typically spread to newborns by adolescents or adults (usually family members). Newborns are especially susceptible due to not having started nor finished their DTaP vaccinations against pertussis.

The Tdap vaccine is the preferred booster to prevent incidents of pertussis in adolescents and adults, as well as its transmission to newborns and young children by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as of October 31, 2010. Note that on June 22, 2011, ACIP voted to recommend Tdap for pregnant women after 20 weeks gestation to improve protection for both the pregnant woman and newborn.

Why is there a concern?

- Not all babies are getting the vaccinations needed to protect them
- Protection against pertussis from early childhood vaccination decreases over time, and teens and adults can become infected repeatedly
- Pertussis rates among adults have risen 400% since 1990
- Most pertussis-related deaths occur in infants less than four months of age
- Health care workers are at greater risk of acquiring pertussis than the general population
- Vaccinating health care workers who have close contact with infants and children can help decrease the morbidity and mortality of pertussis in newborns, infants, and children
- Children, teens, and adults with undiagnosed pertussis can spread the disease to others.

The Tdap vaccine is the only adolescent and adult product available to protect against pertussis. ACIP now recommends Tdap vaccine for individuals seven years and older. Currently Adacel is licensed for 11-64 years of age and Boostrix is licensed for 10 years of age and older. For all ACIP recommendations on Tdap go to: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm.

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