

Tdap VACCINATION DURING PREGNANCY



**THE TDAP VACCINE IS RECOMMENDED IN EVERY PREGNANCY
IDEALLY BETWEEN 27 TO 32 WEEKS.**

THIS PROTECTS YOUR BABY FROM A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS INFECTION CALLED
PERTUSSIS (WHOOPIING COUGH).

TALK TO YOUR CARE PROVIDER TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN GET YOUR VACCINE.

WHAT IS THE TDAP VACCINE?

The Tdap vaccine is a combination vaccine that protects against **tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis**.

Vaccination in pregnancy **allows transfer of protective antibodies to your newborn** which provides protection until they can receive their first vaccines.



WHAT IS PERTUSSIS & HOW SERIOUS IS IT?

Pertussis, also called **whooping cough**, is a very contagious infection of the lungs and airways, caused by the bacteria *Bordetella pertussis*.



HOW COMMON IS PERTUSSIS?

The number of whooping cough cases in Canada have been declining since the pertussis vaccine became available.

Unfortunately, pertussis outbreaks are sporadic and difficult to predict. There have been recent increases in cases across Canada.

70% of hospital admissions for whooping cough occurred in infants younger than 4 months, and almost all deaths were in infants younger than 2 months.

The most vulnerable babies are those who are too young to be vaccinated and don't have passive immunity from you receiving the Tdap vaccine in pregnancy.



Studies show that 9 out of 10 infants under 3 months old are protected after Tdap vaccination in pregnancy.

WHEN SHOULD I GET THE TDAP VACCINE?

All pregnant people ideally get the Tdap vaccine between 27 - 32 weeks gestational age.

Your body needs time to create protective antibodies and pass them to your baby before birth. Tdap antibodies decrease over time, so it is **recommended that you get the vaccine each time you are pregnant** and even if you were not vaccinated in a previous pregnancy.

Severe complications for babies can include:

- Pneumonia
- Seizures
- Brain damage
- Death

Your baby can experience symptoms such as:

- Coughing fits
- Difficulty breathing
- Vomiting

which can last for several weeks or even months.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The Tdap vaccine is **very safe** and has been a recommended part of prenatal care for many years.

Side effects:

Most common

- Redness
- Swelling
- Pain
- Tenderness

Less common

- Body aches
- Fatigue
- Fever

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Everyone in contact with the baby should get the Tdap vaccine including partners, grandparents, siblings, and caregivers.

CAN I STILL GET THE FLU AND COVID VACCINES?

Yes! There is no required delay between Tdap and the COVID-19 or influenza vaccines.

Handout is based on recommendations by The Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC).

This material is intended for use by Canadian residents only. It is solely intended for informational and educational purposes. The information presented in these handouts is not to be used as a substitute for medical advice, independent judgement, or proper clinical assessment by a physician. The context of each case and individual needs differ between patients and this material cannot be applied without consultation with a trained doctor. This information handout is not intended for the diagnosis of health concerns or to take the place of the care of a medical professional. This material reflects the information available at the time of preparation.

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Thomas C, Reddeman L, Reed C, Alkhanbouli M, Clark I, Zhou GX, Aqib A, Shirreff L.