



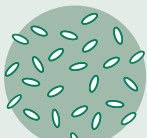
Tdap Vaccine for Preteens and Teens



All preteens should get one Tdap shot when they are 11 or 12 years old to help protect against tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough. Talk to your child's doctor or nurse if they haven't gotten this vaccine yet.

Why does my child need a Tdap vaccine?

Babies and young children get shots called DTaP to help protect them from diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough (pertussis). But as children get older, the protection from these shots starts to decrease. The Tdap vaccine helps protect your preteen or teen from the same diseases as the DTaP shots.

Disease	Symptoms/Complications	Is it serious?
 <p>Tetanus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spasms (painful muscle cramps in the jaw and neck muscles or stomach) Breathing problems Painful muscle stiffness all over the body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. Kids who get tetanus could spend weeks in intensive care. As many as 1 out of 5 people who get tetanus will die from it.
 <p>Diphtheria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thick coating in the back of the throat that can make it hard to breathe and swallow Paralysis Heart failure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. About 1 out of 10 people who get diphtheria will die from it.
 <p>Whooping Cough</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bad cough that can make it difficult to breathe after coughing fits Cough that can last for many weeks Violent coughing fits with vomiting, which can lead to broken ribs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes. It can be serious for people of all ages, but especially serious, even deadly, for babies. Whooping cough can also cause your child to miss school and other activities.

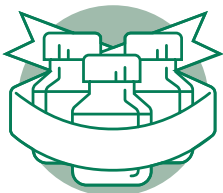
Is the Tdap vaccine safe for my child?

Researchers have studied the Tdap shot very carefully and it is shown to be very safe. Like any vaccine or medicine, the Tdap shot can cause side effects. The most common side effects are mild and include redness and soreness in the arm where the shot was given, headache, fever, or tiredness.

Some preteens and teens might faint after getting the Tdap vaccine or any shot. To help avoid fainting and injuries related to fainting, preteens and teens should sit or lie down when they get a shot and then for about 15 minutes after getting the shot. Serious side effects from the Tdap shot are rare.

How can I get help paying for these vaccines?

Most health insurance plans cover routine vaccinations. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program also provides vaccines for children 18 years and younger who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid-eligible, American Indian, or Alaska Native. Learn more at www.cdc.gov/Features/VFCprogram.



Talk to your child's doctor or nurse about the Tdap vaccine, or visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/Tdap

