



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH  
LANSING

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To: Michigan Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Pertussis (whooping cough) can be a life-threatening infection in infants. To best protect them, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) urges you to ensure parents, siblings, grandparents, and health care personnel within your office have received Tdap vaccine. Providing Tdap vaccine in your office and recommending the vaccine to your patients and their families will help make significant inroads to decreasing the incidence of disease and reducing infant deaths.

To better protect newborns from pertussis, the **Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently voted to expand the recommendation for use of Tdap vaccine during pregnancy.**<sup>1</sup> The ACIP now recommends a dose of Tdap be given to all pregnant women who have not previously received Tdap ([recommendations](#) posted at [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines)). Highlights include:

- Women should ideally receive Tdap vaccine before becoming pregnant (during Gyn or pre-conception visits).
- It is preferred that pregnant women (including adolescents) not previously vaccinated, be given Tdap during the third trimester or late second trimester (after 20 weeks' gestation).
  - "Administration of Tdap after 20 weeks' gestation is preferred to minimize the risk for any low-frequency adverse event and the possibility that any spurious association might appear causative."<sup>1</sup>
- Women who were not vaccinated before or during their pregnancy should receive Tdap in the immediate postpartum period before discharge from the hospital or birthing center.
- Tdap can be administered regardless of the interval since the last Td vaccine.

Since only one dose of Tdap vaccine is currently indicated, it is important to assess a patient's immunization history and to record a dose if given in your office. The Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) is a statewide immunization registry that can be used to track and record immunizations. For more information, visit [www.mcir.org](http://www.mcir.org). To learn more about [vaccine programs in Michigan](#), visit [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize) or contact your local health department.

OB-Gyn providers are an important source of information for pregnant women and play a crucial role in a pregnant woman's decision to get vaccinated - protecting her health and the health of her unborn baby. Since women are encouraged to visit their OB-Gyn on an annual basis, many women of childbearing age rely on you for primary care. Therefore, you play a critical part in educating women about the importance of immunizations and providing preventative care services, such as flu and pertussis vaccination.

Protect vulnerable infants by vaccinating the women in your care. Remember, Tdap vaccine is not just for new mothers - it's for all family members and caregivers of infants less than 12 months of age. Ensure your office also has a policy for vaccinating health care personnel against serious diseases, such as pertussis and influenza. Thank you for joining in the fight to protect Michigan's infants. For information visit [Michigan's pertussis webpage](#) at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize) or [www.immunizationforwomen.org/](http://www.immunizationforwomen.org/)

Sincerely,

Dean G. Sienko, M.D., M.S.  
Acting Chief Medical Executive

<sup>1</sup>[Updated Recommendations for Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine \(Tdap\) in Pregnant Women and Persons Who Have or Anticipate Having Close Contact with an Infant Aged <12 Months](#) --- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2011, 60(41);1424-1426