



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

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To: Michigan Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Clinics

Michigan continues to experience an increased incidence of pertussis (whooping cough). Nearly 700 cases were reported in 2011, and although this was an improvement from 2010, it is likely that many pertussis cases go unrecognized or undiagnosed. In addition, four cases of tetanus were reported in 2011, underscoring further the importance of using vaccines to their full potential to prevent these and other serious diseases.

In response to the increased incidence of pertussis and tetanus cases in Michigan, the Michigan Department of Community Health recommends that:

Whenever tetanus toxoid is indicated for wound management, hospital emergency departments and urgent care centers should administer tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine instead of tetanus and diphtheria (Td) toxoids or tetanus toxoid (TT) to all patients 10 years of age and older, including pregnant women, who have not had a previous dose of Tdap. Children 7 through 9 years of age should receive Tdap vaccine if they have an incomplete DTaP series.

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 clinic. If immunization records are not available, assume that the patient has not received a prior dose of Tdap. The Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) is a statewide immunization registry that can be used to track and record immunizations for children, adolescents, and adults. For more information, visit www.mcir.org.

For those who have not received a previous dose of Tdap, [Tdap is now recommended for:](#)

- Adolescents and adults of any age in contact with infants younger than age 12 months (e.g., parents, grandparents, childcare providers);
- All health care personnel who work in hospitals or ambulatory care settings;
- Pregnant women (administering Tdap during the third trimester or late second trimester - after 20 weeks' gestation is preferred; Tdap may be given in any trimester if indicated for wound care); and
- All other adolescents and adults (including those 65 years and older).

[Other recommendations include:](#)

- Tdap can be administered regardless of the interval since the last administered Td vaccine.
- In situations where Tdap is indicated, either brand of Tdap vaccine (Adacel® or Boostrix®) may be used for persons age 7 through 10 years and 65 years and older.

Protect the patients in your care from serious diseases, such as pertussis and tetanus, and ensure your clinic has a policy for vaccinating health care personnel. Promote public health and patient safety by making sure health care personnel in your facility are up-to-date on their Tdap, flu and other vaccinations. For information visit [Michigan's pertussis webpage](#) at www.michigan.gov/immunize.

Sincerely,

Dean G. Sienko, M.D., M.S.
Acting Chief Medical Executive
Michigan Department of Community Health