



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

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To: Michigan Birthing Hospitals

Pertussis (whooping cough) can be a life-threatening infection in infants. To protect them, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) urges you to make sure parents, siblings, grandparents, and health care personnel within your facility have received the Tdap vaccine. Having Tdap vaccine available and breaking down barriers to giving this vaccine, in our birthing hospitals will help us make significant inroads to fighting this disease in our communities.

Michigan has seen a significant rise in pertussis cases in recent years. This increase was first observed in Michigan during the second half of 2008 and continued throughout 2009 (902 cases) and 2010 (1,519 cases, provisionally). Prior to this increase, there were 315 cases reported in 2008 and around 340 cases per year from 2003-2007.

Secondary attack rates for pertussis are around 70-80% among susceptible household contacts. Pertussis may be milder in older persons; however, those who are infected may transmit the disease to other vulnerable persons, including unimmunized or incompletely immunized infants. Older persons are often found to have the first case in a household with multiple pertussis cases, and are often the source of infections for children.

Despite sustained high coverage for childhood pertussis vaccination, pertussis remains poorly controlled in the United States. Although ACIP recommendations for adolescents and adults to receive Tdap vaccine have been in place since 2005, Tdap coverage is 56% among adolescents and <6% among adults. A total of 16,858 pertussis cases and 12 infant deaths were reported in 2009 (CDC, unpublished data, 2009). To remove identified barriers and programmatic gaps that contribute to suboptimal vaccination coverage, the ACIP recommended the expanded use of Tdap vaccine in October, 2010.

Tdap is now recommended as a single booster dose in:

- Adolescents and adults younger than age 65 yrs who have not already received Tdap.
- Adults of any age, including adults age 65 yrs and older, in contact with infants younger than age 12 months (e.g., parents, grandparents, childcare providers, healthcare personnel) who have not received a dose of Tdap should be prioritized for vaccination.
- Healthcare personnel who work in hospitals or ambulatory care settings and have direct patient contact and who have not received Tdap.
- Adults age 65 yrs and older without a risk indicator (e.g., not in contact with an infant) may also be vaccinated with Tdap.

Other recommendations include:

- Tdap can now be administered regardless of the interval since the last Td vaccine was given
- Children ages 7 through 10 years who did not complete a primary series of pertussis-containing vaccine (DTaP) should receive a single dose of Tdap as part of their catch-up schedule
- Adolescents should receive a one-time dose of Tdap (instead of Td) at the 11-12-year-old visit

Protect the newborns in your care from serious diseases. First, ensure that all infants receive their first dose of hepatitis B vaccine at birth. Next, encourage influenza and pertussis vaccination for everyone, including new parents, siblings, grandparents, health care personnel, and anyone who will be around a newborn. Remember that unvaccinated health care personnel are a key vehicle for the transmission of influenza and pertussis in health care settings. Thank you for joining in the fight to protect Michigan's infants.

Sincerely,

Greg Holzman, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Executive