

**Free Adult Pertussis Vaccination**

This strategy is to 'cocoon' or protect babies from adult sources of pertussis infection around them. A recent Australian study has shown that parents remain the most important source of pertussis infection for infants.

FAQ's

There appears to be some confusion regarding the availability of adult dTpa. Following are some of the common questions being asked.

Q. Who can receive the vaccine?

A. New parents, grandparents or any other adult who regularly cares for infants less than 12 months of age.

New mothers can have dTpa after delivery and expectant fathers can have dTpa during the pregnancy.

Q. What if they have had ADT in the past 5 years?

A. There is no waiting period between doses of ADT and dTpa. There may be a slight increase in the incidence of local reactions.

Q. What if they have had a Boostrix since 2004?

A. If you have documented proof of age of this, e.g. school records or practice records, they do not need another dose. At the present time, there is no recommendation for a further dose although this may change in the future.

Q. What if the person is lactating?

A. The vaccine is safe for lactating mothers.

Q. What if they have had another vaccine in the last month?

A. Boostrix is not a live vaccine and can be given at any time in relation to other vaccines such as HPV vaccine.

Q. What if the person has had pertussis infection previously?

A. Vaccine or disease immunity wanes over time, so even those with past pertussis infection need to be vaccinated

Q. What about adolescents who have missed dTpa at school?

A. All NSW school students are offered dTpa in year 10 at school. This dose can be offered free at GP practices for any student who has missed this dose. Please order from the immunisation unit 49246499. Also remember to offer this vaccine to 15 yo's who are not attending school.

NSW Health Immunisation Program information and order forms available at:
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/living/immunisation/immunise_prog/index.html