



# Tdap: Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis

## What you need to know about tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis

**Tdap vaccine** can prevent tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis.

Diphtheria and pertussis spread from person to person. Tetanus enters the body through cuts or wounds.

### TETANUS (T):

- Causes painful stiffening of the muscles. Tetanus can lead to serious health problems, including being unable to open the mouth, having trouble swallowing and breathing, or death.

*Tetanus leads to death in about 1 in 10 cases.*

### DIPHTHERIA (D)

- Can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, or death.

*Without treatment, 40-50% of infected people die from diphtheria with the highest rates in children under 5 and adults over 40.*

### PERTUSSIS (aP), also known as “whooping cough,”

- Can cause uncontrollable, violent coughing that makes it hard to breathe, eat, or drink. Pertussis can be extremely serious especially in babies and young children, causing pneumonia, convulsions, brain damage, or death.
- In teens and adults, it can cause weight loss, loss of bladder control, passing out, and rib fractures from severe coughing.

*48,500,000 people are infected annually. Pertussis causes an estimated 195,000 deaths worldwide annually.*

**Tdap is only for children 7 years and older,** adolescents, and adults.



**Adolescents** should receive a single dose of Tdap, preferably at age 11 or 12 years.

**Pregnant people** should get a dose of Tdap during every pregnancy, preferably during the early part of the third trimester, to help protect the newborn from pertussis. Infants are most at risk for severe, life-threatening complications from pertussis



**Adults** who have never received Tdap should get a dose of Tdap.

Also, **adults should receive a booster dose of either Tdap or Td** (a different vaccine that protects against tetanus and diphtheria but not pertussis) every 10 years, or after 5 years in the case of a severe or dirty wound or burn.



Data Sourced from CDC, PA-AAP Report on 2021 SILR Data

Tdap may be given at the same time as other vaccines. People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting Tdap vaccine.

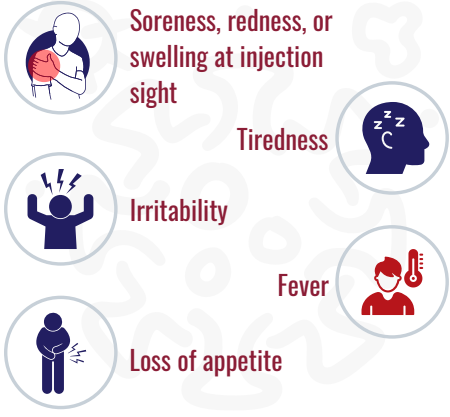


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# WHAT TO EXPECT AFTER VACCINATION

It's normal to experience immune response after vaccination, this is how you know the vaccine is doing its job. These side effects are usually mild and disappear on their own in a few days. Some normal immune responses for Tdap vaccine include:



## Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of any vaccine that protects against tetanus, diphtheria, or pertussis**, or has any **severe, life-threatening allergies**
- Has had a **coma, decreased level of consciousness, or prolonged seizures within 7 days after a previous dose of any pertussis vaccine (DTP, DTaP, or Tdap)**
- Has **seizures or another nervous system problem**
- Has ever had **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** (also called "GBS")
- Has had **severe pain or swelling after a previous dose of any vaccine that protects against tetanus or diphtheria**

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

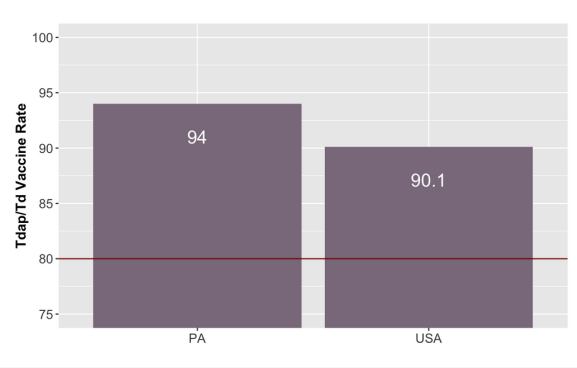
As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

# Tdap Vaccination Rates

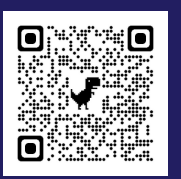
The Healthy People 2020 goal is **80%** coverage for the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.

\*Pennsylvania state data are taken from PAAAP Routine Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Report by Pennsylvania County 2018-2021; national data are taken from CDC estimates.

Percentage 13-17 year olds with 1 dose of Tdap/Td vaccine in PA and USA, 2020\*



Scan the QR code to connect with the Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition or a local coalition near you!



For more vaccine information go to: [immunizepa.org](https://immunizepa.org)