Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) Vaccine

What is Tdap?

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

- Tetanus (T) causes painful tightening of the muscles and can lead to serious health issues including inability to swallow or breath and even death.
- Diphtheria (D) can lead to a bacterial infection causing difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, or death.
- Pertussis (aP), AKA “whooping cough,” is highly contagious and can cause serious coughing, and make eating, drinking or breathing difficult. Pertussis is especially dangerous in babies and young children.

Where do I get the vaccine?

Please talk to your healthcare provider, local community-based organization, community health center, Rural Health Center, and/or Native Hawaiian Health Center if you want the Tdap vaccine or for more information.

Who should get the vaccine?

Almost all babies and young children in the U.S. get vaccinated with DTap (different dosage than Tdap).

- Adolescents should get one dose of Tdap between the ages of 11 and 12 years to boost their immunity.
- Pregnant people should get a dose of Tdap during every pregnancy, during the beginning of the third trimester.
- Adults should also receive a booster dose of either Tdap or Td every 10 years, or after 5 years in the case of a severe or dirty wound or burn.