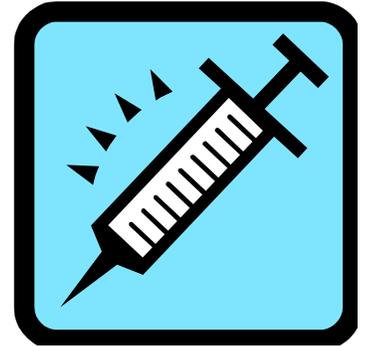


The Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis Shot - Tdap

The **tetanus / diphtheria / pertussis** shot (**Tdap**) protects against three serious diseases.



Tetanus, also known as 'lockjaw' is a serious disease. People with **Tetanus** usually have painful tightening of the jaw and neck muscles. As a result, they can't open their mouths or swallow. **Tetanus** does not spread from person to person. People get **tetanus** when their skin is cut or broken, especially if they are around dust, soil, or manure.

Diphtheria is a very serious infection of the upper chest. The infection can lead to breathing problems, heart failure, paralysis, and even death. A person who has **diphtheria** can give it to someone else by coughing. Today, hardly anyone in the U.S. gets **diphtheria** because almost everyone gets the vaccine (shot).

Pertussis (whooping cough) is an infection of the chest that causes people to cough very hard for a long time. Sometimes people cough so hard they break a rib. A person with whooping cough also has trouble breathing. Whooping cough can lead to pneumonia. Whooping cough spreads easily from one person to another.

The **Tdap** shot is the best way to protect against **tetanus, diphtheria,** and **whooping** cough. Adults 19 – 64 years of age should receive a **Tdap** shot once. A dose of **Tdap** can be given when it's time for you to get your **tetanus/diphtheria** booster shot. Your provider may recommend **Tdap** if your last **tetanus/diphtheria** booster was more than 2 years ago.

Because Tdap offers protection against whooping cough you may receive **Tdap** before you need your tetanus booster.

After you get the **Tdap** shot, your skin may be sore where the needle went in.