



California
Department of
Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

FROM: Howard Backer, M.D., M.P.H., Chief
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Clarifications on Recommendations for the Use of Tdap in Older Children

In correction of the October 3, 2005 guidance letter from Department of Health Services (DHS), Immunization Branch, the following reactions to prior doses of DTaP or DTP conditions are not contraindications to the use of Tdap in children 10 years or older:

- Temperature 105° F (40.5° C) or higher,
- Collapse or shock-like state,
- Persistent crying lasting 3 hours or longer,
- Convulsions with or without fever,
- History of an extensive limb swelling reaction.

As a reminder, the following are also not contraindications to the use of Tdap in children 10 years and older:

- Stable neurological disorder,
- Pregnancy,
- Breastfeeding,
- Immunosuppression, including HIV infection,
- Intercurrent minor illness,
- Antibiotic use.

The following are true contraindications to the use of Tdap in children 10 years and older:

- History of serious allergic reaction (i.e., anaphylaxis) to vaccine components
- History of encephalopathy (e.g., coma, prolonged seizures) not attributable to an identifiable cause within 7 days of administration of a pertussis vaccine.

Vaccine providers may administer Tdap after Td to adolescents 11–18 years of age at intervals shorter than 5 years, particularly when the benefit of providing protection against pertussis is likely to be increased (e.g., pertussis outbreaks, close contact with an infant <12 months of age). The safety of intervals as short as approximately 2 years

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between Td and Tdap is supported by a Canadian study among children and adolescents.

Because of the increased risk of severe or fatal pertussis to infants under 12 months of age, DHS highly recommends a dose of Tdap for persons who have or who anticipate having close contact with an infant <12 months of age (e.g., parents, other household contacts 11 years and older, childcare providers, health-care providers).

For additional information, please contact your local VFC Representative or the VFC customer service line at (877) 243-8832.

cc: DHS, Immunization Branch Field Representatives
Local Health Officers
Local Health Department Immunization Coordinators
Local Health Department CHDP Program Directors
Vanessa Baird, Chief, Medi-Cal Managed Care Division, CDHS
Marian Dalsey, M.D., Acting Chief, Children Medical Services Branch, CDHS
Linda Rudolph, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Medi-Cal Managed Care, CDHS
Susann Steinberg, M.D., Chief, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health/Office of Family Planning Branches, CDHS
Villita Lewis, Deputy Director, Benefits and Quality Monitoring, MRMIB
Marcia Ehinger, M.D., Medi-Cal Benefits Branch, CDHS
Kathy Chance, M.D., Children Medical Services Branch, CDHS