

Whitworth University Health Center

Recommendations for Tdap Vaccine

The Whitworth Health Center recommends that all incoming freshmen who need boosters receive the Tdap vaccine rather than the Td. Residence-hall and classroom environments put those who are not protected at risk for pertussis, which causes illness serious enough to miss several school days. It is also needed to protect young children who have not been vaccinated. The very young are much more likely to become seriously ill.

*The information below was adapted from the CDC website.*

On Jan. 2, 2007, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices [a branch of the Centers for Disease Control] issued guidelines for tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine for adults, which are published in the Dec. 15, 2006, issue of the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*.

"For adult contacts of infants, ACIP recommended Tdap at an interval as short as 2 years since the previous Td [tetanus and diphtheria toxoids vaccine]. On February 22, 2006, ACIP recommended Tdap for healthcare personnel (HCP), also at an interval as short as 2 years since the last Td."

Tdap, formulated for use in adults and adolescents, was licensed in the United States on June 10, 2005, for persons aged 11 to 64 years, based on prelicensure studies showing safety and efficacy. Tdap, given as a single booster dose to adults, provided immunogenicity against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis.

ACIP recommendations to reduce pertussis morbidity among adults, to maintain the standard of care for tetanus and diphtheria prevention, and to reduce the transmission of pertussis to infants and in healthcare settings are as follows:

- Adults aged 19 to 64 years should receive a single dose of Tdap to replace Td for booster immunization against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis if they received their last dose of Td more than 10 years earlier and if they have not previously received Tdap.
- For booster protection against pertussis, intervals shorter than 10 years since the last Td may be used.
- To reduce the risk for transmitting pertussis, adults who have or who anticipate having close contact with an infant younger than 12 months, such as parents, grandparents younger than 65 years, child care providers, and healthcare personnel, should receive a single dose of Tdap. The guidelines suggest an interval as short as 2 years from the last Td, but shorter intervals can be used. Whenever possible, women should receive Tdap before becoming pregnant, but women who have not previously received Tdap should receive a dose of Tdap in the immediate postpartum period.
- Healthcare personnel who have direct patient contact working in hospitals or ambulatory care settings should receive a single dose of Tdap as soon as possible if they have not previously received Tdap. The guidelines recommend an interval as short as 2 years from the last dose of Td, but shorter intervals may be used. HICPAC supports these recommendations for use of Tdap in healthcare personnel.