

December 2019  
Edition 2 Vol 4

# What is cocooning?

Babies younger than 6 months old are more likely to develop certain infectious diseases than older children.

Cocooning is a way to protect babies from catching diseases from the people around them- people like their parents, siblings, grandparents, friends, child-care providers, babysitters, and healthcare providers. Once these people are vaccinated, they are less likely to spread these contagious diseases to the baby. They surround the baby with a cocoon of protection against disease until he or she is old enough to get all the doses of vaccine needed to be fully protected.

Babies younger than 6 months are too young to have received all the doses of vaccine that are needed to protect them from whooping cough (pertussis), flu (influenza), and other dangerous diseases. To be fully protected, babies need to get all the vaccine doses in a series-not just the first dose.



## Pregnancy and Whooping Cough

- Provide indirect protection to your baby by making sure everyone who is around him/her is up-to-date with their whooping cough vaccine.
- Researchers have determined that in most cases, someone in the baby's household got them sick
- Encourage others to get a whooping cough vaccine at least 2 weeks before meeting your baby if they are not up-to-date with their whooping cough vaccines
- Pregnant women should receive a Tdap vaccine with every pregnancy, ideally between 27- and 36-weeks gestation, no matter how long it's been since her last Td or Tdap vaccine. Antibodies are expected to pass to the baby and provide protection as soon as the mother gives birth.
- If mothers do not receive a Tdap vaccine during pregnancy, and they have never been vaccinated, they should get vaccinated immediately after the baby is born. This may not protect the baby directly, but it may prevent the mother from becoming infected and passing pertussis to her baby.



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## Tdap Vaccination

**Tdap Vaccine Approved as Substitute for Td vaccine.** The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted in October 2019, unanimously to allow *either* Td or Tdap vaccine in almost all situations where currently only Td vaccine is recommended. Specifically, either Tdap or Td vaccine is now recommended for:

- Decennial (every 10 years) Td booster;
- Tetanus prophylaxis for wound management;
- Catch-up immunization schedule for persons age 7 and older, including pregnant women

The substitution was also unanimously approved within the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program.

## Did you know:

WCDHD offers immunization to adults as well as children who are uninsured or underinsured.

Our Adult Immunization Program includes:

**Tdap**  
**Hepatitis A**  
**Hepatitis B**  
**Gardasil 9**  
**MMR**  
**Varicella**

Our VFC Program includes **all** ACIP recommended vaccine to eligible children

Sources:

[www.immunize.org/cocooning](http://www.immunize.org/cocooning)

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/family-caregivers/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/dtap-tdap-td/public/>

IAC Express #1456

Location: Health Services/AIP and VFC Vaccine/Quarterly Provider Newsletter  
Original: 12/9/2019  
Revised: 12/16/2019

## Routine DTaP Primary Vaccination Schedule

Dose	Age	Minimum Interval
Primary 1	6 weeks – 2 months	—
Primary 2	4 months	4 weeks
Primary 3	6 months	4 weeks
Primary 4	15-18 months	6 months

### DTaP Fourth Dose

- Recommended at 15-18 months\*
- May be given at 12 months of age if:
  - 6 months since DTaP3, and
  - unlikely to return at 15-18 months

\*15-20 months for Daptacel

### School Entry (Fifth) Dose

- Fifth dose recommended when 4th dose given before age 4 years
- All DTaP vaccines are licensed for 5th dose after DTaP series

### Interchangeability of Different Brands of DTaP Vaccine

- Series should be completed with same brand of vaccine if possible
- Limited data suggest that "mix and match" DTaP schedules do not adversely affect safety and immunogenicity
- Use different brand of DTaP if necessary

### Tdap Vaccines

- Boostrix (GlaxoSmithKline)
  - approved for persons 10 years of age and older
- Adacel (sanofi pasteur)
  - approved for persons 11 through 64 years of age