Protect your child against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis

For Grade 7 students

Why your child should get the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine…

- The Tdap vaccine protects against three diseases: tetanus (lockjaw), diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough).
- Early childhood vaccines against pertussis (whooping cough) tend to wear off during adolescence.
- To help reduce the incidence of pertussis (whooping cough) in the population and protect babies that are not fully immunized.

Who should get this vaccine?
Grade 7 students.

Who should NOT get this vaccine?
- Individuals allergic to any part of the vaccine or its packaging.

What you should know about tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis disease…

- **Tetanus** is caused by bacteria found in dirt, rust, manure and human feces. An individual becomes infected when bacteria enter an open cut.
- **Diphtheria** is caused by bacteria that infect the nose and throat. These bacteria release a poison that causes the disease symptoms. Diphtheria is spread by coughing and sneezing.
- **Pertussis** is caused by bacteria and begins like or in the same way as a cold. Pertussis is spread by coughing and sneezing.

Possible Symptoms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tetanus</th>
<th>Diphtheria</th>
<th>Pertussis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>muscle spasms</td>
<td>breathing problems</td>
<td>severe coughing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>convulsions</td>
<td>heart failure</td>
<td>choking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sometimes death</td>
<td>paralysis</td>
<td>whooping cough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>vomiting spells</td>
<td>(lasting weeks or months)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>sometimes death</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What you should know about the Tdap vaccine…

The vaccine…
- is **SAFE** and very effective in preventing disease;
- contains three separate vaccinations combined into one needle.

What to expect following tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis immunization…
- **Common side effects** are pain, redness, and swelling at the injection site, mild headache, fever and body aches.

Please note: As is the case with any vaccine, there is a small risk that a serious allergic reaction can occur. Therefore, students are asked to remain on site for at least 15 minutes after the vaccine is given so that possible immediate reactions can be monitored and treated.

How to treat fever and pain…

- A cold compress on the injection site may reduce discomfort.
- You may give your child acetaminophen (e.g., Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (e.g., Advil®).
- Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA or Aspirin®) should NOT be given to children younger than 18 due to its link to Reye’s syndrome.

What else you should know…

- If your child has a fever or illness other than a minor cold, the nurse may delay giving this vaccine.
- If your child’s immune system is affected by illness, steroid medication or cancer treatments, the decision to immunize must be made in consultation with your family physician.
- If your child has had an allergic reaction to a vaccine in the past, or if you have any questions, please contact your local Public Health office.
- Adverse reactions especially severe or unusual reactions in the four weeks following immunization should be reported to the local Public Health office. Please see your doctor if your child has a severe reaction.
- Further information is available at [www.gnb.ca/publichealth](http://www.gnb.ca/publichealth)

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