The Tdap vaccine protects against three diseases: tetanus, 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.
- School-age children who have already received a Tdap vaccine in the last five years.

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.

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.
- Possible Symptoms
  - Tetanus - muscle pain
  - Diphtheria - breathing problems
  - Pertussis - severe coughing

How to register for this program...
- Complete and sign the tear-off section of the brochure.
- Return the completed tear-off section to the school even if you choose not to have your child immunized.
- Keep the rest of the brochure for your information.
- Once your child is immunized, the nurse will complete the immunization information on your child’s Personal Immunization Record and return it to him or her.

Consent form for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis immunization

Please complete and return this portion to the school.

Immunization Record

Student's name  Birth date

This section is to be completed by the Public Health nurse.

Name of vaccine

Date

This immunization record will be given to your child after his/her immunizations. Please keep this record with your child’s personal health files.

Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis immunization is safe, effective and very effective in preventing disease; further information is available at www.gnb.ca/publichealth.

Please contact your doctor if you have any questions, please contact your local Public Health office.

Possible side effects include:
- Inject site tenderness, pain, redness, and swelling
- Mild headache
- Fever
- Body aches

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.
- It is important to record any allergies on the consent form.
- 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.

School age children who have already received a Tdap vaccine...