



Tdap Vaccination During Pregnancy

Why is vaccination against pertussis (whooping cough) important during pregnancy?

More than 48,000 cases of whooping cough were reported in the United States in 2012. Pertussis is a very contagious bacterial infection that is easily spread through the air by coughing. In adults, pertussis can cause significant illness with a severe cough which may last up to 6 months, but in newborns it may be life-threatening. Infants infected with pertussis may suffer with coughing spasms, pneumonia, and/or seizures which may require hospitalization or even die from this infection.



Babies cannot be vaccinated until they are 2 months old, so a newborn is at increased risk of getting this infection until vaccination is done. Vaccinating women during pregnancy may reduce the likelihood that their babies will be exposed to pertussis.

Is the vaccine safe during pregnancy?

Tdap (combined tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccination in pregnancy has been shown in studies to be very safe. The vaccine contains inactive bacteria and proteins that stimulate the immune system to make antibodies against these potentially deadly infections. Multiple studies have shown there are no harmful effects on the developing baby.

When should the vaccine be given?

Tdap should be given during the 3rd trimester, between 27 and 36 weeks gestation.

The pregnant woman produces antibodies against the bacteria that causes pertussis. These antibodies pass through the placenta, providing protection for the newborn. Pregnant women should receive a Tdap vaccine during every pregnancy, regardless of prior vaccination.

Who else in the household should get Tdap?

All family members and caregivers should be up to date on their vaccines. Even if the Tdap vaccine was received less than 10 years ago, a booster is recommended at least 2 to 3 weeks before the baby is born.

What are the side effects?

Side effects to the Tdap vaccine are rare. If you experience pain or redness at the injection site that continues beyond a few days, please contact your provider.

PAYSON

15 S 1000 E Suite 125
Payson, Utah 84651
Phone : 801-465-2559

SPANISH FORK

325 W Center
Spanish Fork, Utah 84660
Phone : 801-465-2559

Visit -

CanyonViewWomensCare.com
for additional information on other
interesting health topics.

