



DTaP: tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis

About DTaP

DTaP vaccine can prevent tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis infections.

Tetanus (T), aka "Lockjaw"

- Caused by the *C. tetani* bacteria, which is found in many environments, and enters the body through cuts or wounds.
- Can cause:
 - painful muscle tightening and spasms
 - inability to open the mouth or swallow
 - fever and sweating
 - high blood pressure and heart rate
- Causes death in about 11% of cases.

Diphtheria (D)

- Spreads person to person by respiratory droplets, such as coughing or sneezing, or by touching infected open sores or wounds.
- Can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, and death.
- Untreated, causes death in 40-50% of cases.

Pertussis (P)

- Can be extremely dangerous in babies and young children, leading to:
 - uncontrollable, violent coughing
 - pneumonia
 - brain damage
 - death
- In adults it can lead to weight loss, loss of consciousness, and rib fractures.
- Causes about 160,000 deaths worldwide each year, with higher rates in babies and young children.

Important details

DTaP is only for children younger than 7 years old. Different vaccines (Tdap and Td) are available for older children, adolescents, and adults.

DTaP is a **5-dose vaccine series**, usually given at ages **2 months, 4 months, and 6 months**, with a booster dose at **15-18 months** and **4-6 years**.

DTaP may be given as a stand-alone vaccine, or as part of a combination vaccine (a type that combines several vaccines together into one shot).

When all doses are received on time, the DTaP vaccine is **90% effective**.

About half of the children who receive DTaP have no side effects at all, and most others only have a mild reaction.



What to expect after vaccination

It's normal to experience immune response after vaccination— this is how you know the vaccine is working. Side effects are usually mild and resolve on their own within a few days. Some normal immune responses after the DTaP vaccine include:

- pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site
- tiredness
- diarrhea
- fever
- loss of appetite

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting DTaP vaccine.

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- has had an allergic reaction after a previous dose of any vaccine that protects against tetanus, diphtheria, or pertussis
- has any severe, life-threatening allergies
- has had a coma, decreased level of consciousness, or prolonged seizures within 7 days after a previous dose of any pertussis vaccine (DTP, DTaP, or Tdap)
- has seizures or another nervous system disorder
- has ever had Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)
- has had severe pain or swelling after a previous dose of any vaccine that protects against tetanus or diphtheria

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy, have vision changes, or ringing in your ears. As with any medicine, there is a very small chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

DTaP vaccination statistics

About 50%

of babies younger than one year old who get pertussis need treatment in a hospital

18,000+

pertussis cases reported to the CDC in 2019, but experts say many cases are undiagnosed

Severe cough

is a common symptom of pertussis infection, and can last up to 10 weeks.

For more vaccine information, go to immunize.utah.gov or scan the QR code!

