

PHYSICIAN DISCUSSION GUIDE

Use this card to aid your discussions with parents about the importance of Tdap^a vaccine.

Pertussis is a serious disease that can affect your family

- Pertussis is commonly referred to as whooping cough¹
- The disease causes severe coughing that can last for several weeks¹



Complications of pertussis may include:¹

- Pneumonia
- Seizures
- Hospitalization
- Death

Even if you received vaccination against pertussis as a child, you may still be at risk

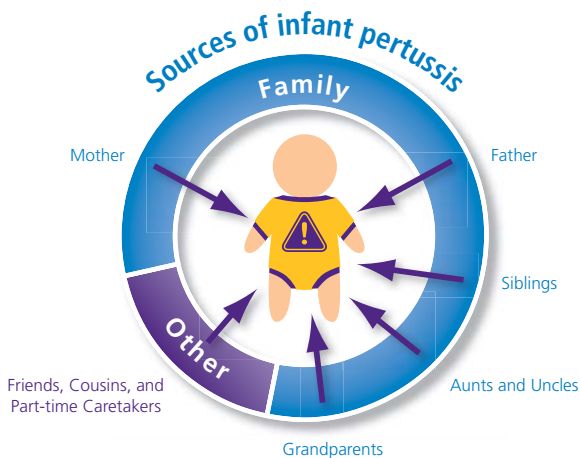
- Immunity to pertussis wears off 5 to 10 years following childhood vaccination²

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends all adults and adolescents 11 through 64 years of age receive immunization against pertussis^{2,3}

^a Tdap = Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis.

You and your family could spread pertussis to your infant⁴

When a source was identified, household contacts were responsible for infant pertussis up to 83% of the time⁴



- A total of 91 families completed the study with the source case identified for 44 infants⁴
 - Source cases were identified and described by relationship to the infant, age, and household status⁴

Getting vaccinated can help ensure you don't spread pertussis to your infant²

- Ask your primary health-care professional for vaccination against pertussis
- Encourage other family members and adults who have contact with your baby to get vaccinated as well

References: **1.** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). *Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases*. Atkinson W, Wolfe C, Hamborsky J, McIntyre L, eds. 11th ed. Washington, DC: Public Health Foundation; 2009:199-216. **2.** CDC. Preventing tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis among adults: use of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and recommendation of ACIP, supported by the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC), for use of Tdap among health-care personnel. *MMWR*. 2006;55(RR-17):1-37. **3.** CDC. Preventing tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis among adolescents: use of tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccines: recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). *MMWR*. 2006;55(RR-3):1-43. **4.** Wendelboe AM, Njamkepo E, Bourillon A, et al. Transmission of *Bordetella pertussis* to young infants. *Pediatr Infect Dis J*. 2007;26:293-299.

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