

TO: EZIZ Users
FROM: CDPH
SUBJECT: Protect Young Infants from Pertussis: Immunize Pregnant Women with Tdap
DATE: July 16, 2013

Dear EZIZ Users,

Protect Young Infants from Pertussis: Immunize Pregnant Women with Tdap

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is always a threat to young infants, though its magnitude can vary by year. Over 9,100 cases of pertussis were reported in California during 2010, the most in more than a half-century. Pertussis historically has 3-5 year cycles of increased disease; pertussis cases are likely to increase between 2013 and 2015.

Public health officials are urging all health care providers to educate families about the dangers of pertussis and to **immunize all pregnant women between 27 and 36 weeks with Tdap** during EACH pregnancy, even if they received Tdap in the past.

Young Infants at Highest Pertussis Risk

- Young infants are most susceptible to severe consequences from pertussis, including hospitalization and death.
- Immunization against pertussis with DTaP cannot be started until the infant is at least 6 weeks of age. Infants need 3 doses of Tdap by 6 months of age for optimal protection.
- Young Infants are dependent on maternal antibodies for protection.

National Recommendations: Immunize with Tdap in 3rd Trimester for Optimal Protection

- There is evidence that antibody levels decrease in the years after receiving Tdap.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends immunizing every pregnant women between 27 and 36 weeks gestation with Tdap, no matter when she received an earlier dose, to maximize the amount of maternal antibody protection transferred to her young infant.

The Immunization Branch of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) would appreciate your sharing the attached short article with your organization's members through your newsletters and other means.

More Information:

- [Tdap for Pregnant Women: Information for Providers](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [Guidelines for Vaccinating Pregnant Women](#) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- [Stop Pertussis: Pregnant Women and Their Babies Rely on You](#) [PDF] (California Department of Public Health)

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