

# Protect your child against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis

For Grade 7 students



## Why your child should get the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine...

- The Tdap vaccine protects against three diseases: tetanus (lockjaw), 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.

## 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.

### Possible Symptoms

Tetanus	Diphtheria	Pertussis
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- muscle spasms</li> <li>- convulsions</li> <li>- sometimes death</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- breathing problems</li> <li>- heart failure</li> <li>- paralysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- severe coughing</li> <li>- choking</li> <li>- whooping cough</li> <li>- vomiting spells (lasting weeks or months)</li> <li>- sometimes death</li> </ul>

## What you should know about the Tdap vaccine...

### The vaccine...

- is **SAFE** and very effective in preventing disease;
- contains three separate vaccinations combined into one needle.

## 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.

**Please note:** As is the case with any vaccine, there is a small risk that a serious allergic reaction can occur. **Therefore, students are asked to remain on site for at least 15 minutes after the vaccine is given so that possible immediate reactions can be monitored and treated.**

## How to treat fever and pain...

- A cold compress on the injection site may reduce discomfort.
- You may give your child *acetaminophen* (e.g., Tylenol®) or *ibuprofen* (e.g., Advil®).
- *Acetylsalicylic acid* (ASA or Aspirin®) should NOT be given to children younger than 18 due to its link to Reye's syndrome.

## 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.
- 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.
- Further information is available at [www.gnb.ca/publichealth](http://www.gnb.ca/publichealth)