

# What is the Tdap vaccine?



**Pertussis** is commonly known as Whooping Cough. It can cause difficulty breathing and is especially dangerous in newborns.

Tetanus  
Diphtheria  
Pertussis

Tdap stands for tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. These are very serious diseases. The Tdap vaccine can protect us from all three of these.



It is especially important that all health care providers get vaccinated!

**Diphtheria** causes a thick coating to form in the back of the throat. It can lead to trouble breathing, heart failure, or even death.

**Tetanus**, also called lockjaw, is a very rare but serious disease. It causes muscle tightening and stiffness throughout the body. It kills 1 in 10 people who get the disease.

The reported cases of tetanus and diphtheria have dropped about **99%**. Pertussis has seen a drop by about **80%** since the vaccine was introduced.

Pregnant women should also get the Tdap vaccine to help protect their newborn babies against pertussis.



The Tdap vaccine is routinely given to adolescents ages 11-12.

About 90% of Kansas teens have received the Tdap vaccine.

(NIS-Teen, CDC, 2017)

