

Childhood Vaccines

Caregiver Information

At Eisner Health, your baby's health is our top priority.



What is the **DTaP** vaccine, and who needs it?

The DTaP vaccine protects against Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis, also known as whooping cough.

- Diphtheria can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, and death.
- Tetanus causes painful stiffening of the muscles, including being unable to open the mouth, having trouble swallowing and breathing, and death.
- Pertussis, or whooping cough, can cause uncontrollable, violent coughing that makes it hard to breathe, eat, or drink. In babies and young children, it can cause pneumonia, convulsions, brain damage, and death. It is spread through the cough of someone who has the virus.
 - This is why the whooping cough vaccine is given to pregnant women and any caregiver in the infant's life, protecting the vulnerable newborn.

Children should receive five doses of DTaP, one at each of these ages: 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, 15 to 18 months, and 4 to 6 years.



Does my baby need this vaccine?

Diphtheria, Pertussis (whooping cough), and Tetanus are primarily spread through respiratory droplets. Diphtheria and Pertussis are airborne infections transmitted from person to person through coughing or sneezing.

Tetanus is not person-to-person contagious but is contracted through contact with tetanus spores found in soil, dust, and animal feces, entering the body through wounds or cuts.

Does my baby need this vaccine?

YES

- Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is widespread throughout the United States and the rest of the world. Every 3 to 5 years, we experience an outbreak in the United States.
- The two most recent pertussis epidemics occurred in 2010, with over 9,000 cases of pertussis reported in California, the most in over 60 years — including 10 infant deaths. Then in 2015, over 11,000 cases were reported, with 2 infant deaths and hundreds of hospitalizations.¹

The reason you don't typically see diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis is because so many children are vaccinated against them. While many diseases have virtually disappeared in the United States because of vaccination, they are common in other parts of the world. If we stop vaccinating against these diseases, they can reemerge.

Receiving vaccines is an important part of a child's health.

Vaccines give your child the antibodies they need to fight off serious diseases. As a parent or caregiver, we want you to feel confident about making the choice to protect your child.

Please talk with your provider if you have any questions about vaccinations.



[1]
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/pages/immunization/pertussis.aspx>

