

# TDaP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis)

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## What is the TDaP Vaccine?

TDaP is a vaccine that protects against three bacterial diseases: **diphtheria**, **tetanus**, and **pertussis** (whooping cough). The vaccine contains a combination of three different bacterial components, which are harmless pieces of the bacteria that can stimulate the body's immune system to produce protective antibodies.

**Diphtheria** is a bacterial infection that can cause a thick coating in the back of the throat, which can lead to breathing problems, heart failure, and paralysis.

**Tetanus** is a bacterial infection that can cause muscle stiffness and spasms, particularly in the neck and jaw. This can lead to difficulty breathing and can be fatal in severe cases.

**Pertussis** (whooping cough) is a bacterial infection that can cause severe coughing spells, which can make it difficult to breathe, eat, or drink. Whooping cough is especially dangerous in infants and can even be fatal.

The TDaP vaccine is given as a series of shots to children starting at 2 months of age and continuing until they are 4-6 years old. The vaccine is highly effective at preventing these bacterial infections and is considered a safe and routine part of childhood immunizations.

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## What Should I Expect?:

When getting a TDaP vaccine, you can expect to receive an injection in the upper arm. You may feel a slight pinch or sting at the injection site, but the process is usually quick and relatively painless. After receiving the vaccine, it's common to experience some mild side effects such as:

- Pain, redness, or swelling at the injection site
- Fever
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Nausea

These side effects are usually mild and go away on their own within a few days. In rare cases, more serious side effects can occur, such as an allergic reaction or seizures. If you experience any unusual symptoms after receiving the vaccine, it's important to seek medical attention right away.

