**Pediatric-type Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids (DT) Vaccine**

**Precautions and Contraindications**

Screen all patients for precautions and contraindications to immunization.

**Recommended Schedule**

**DT vaccine can be given to children less than 7 years old, to complete the vaccination series if a child has a valid contraindication to pertussis vaccine or if parents refuse pertussis vaccine.**

DT vaccine can be given concurrently with other vaccines.

| **Vaccine** | **Recommended Ages for routine vaccination** | **Schedule for catch-up vaccination (minimum intervals between doses)** | **Booster doses** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DT | Dose #1 beginning <12 months of age:   Give to children at 2m, 4m, 6m, 15 through 18m, 4 through 6yrs of age | Dose #2 and dose #3 may be given four weeks after previous dose  Dose #4 may be given 6m after dose #3 but not before 12m of age  If dose #4 is given before 4th birthday, wait at least 6m for dose #5 (4 through 6 yrs of age)  If dose #4 is given after 4th birthday, dose #5 is not needed. | Give booster dose (Td vaccine) at 11 through 12 years of age if 5 years have elapsed since last dose.  Give booster dose (Td vaccine) every ten years thereafter |
| DT | Dose #1 beginning >12 months of age:  Use schedule for  catch-up vaccination | Dose #2 may be given four weeks after previous dose  Dose #3 may be given 6-12m after dose #2  If dose #3 is given before 4th birthday, wait at least 6m for dose #4 (4-6yrs of age)  If dose #3 is given after 4th birthday, dose #4 is not needed.  Dose #5 is not needed. | Give booster dose (Td vaccine) at 11-12 years of age if 5 years have elapsed since last dose.  Give booster dose (Td vaccine) every ten years thereafter |

**Adult-type tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td)** vaccine should be used for all those aged 7 years and older and for whom pertussis vaccine is specifically contraindicated. (See Td/Tdap protocol)

* Tetanus disease does **NOT** confer immunity because of the very small amount of toxin required to produce illness.

**Dosage and Route**

Give DT vaccine 0.5 mL intramuscularly (IM).

Shake the vial well to distribute the suspension uniformly before withdrawing for administration. (Do not use if resuspension does not occur with vigorous shaking)

**Always check the package insert prior to administration of any vaccine**.

**Anatomical Site**

In children younger than 1 year (i.e., infants), the anterolateral aspect of the thigh is the preferred site of injection. In older children, the deltoid muscle is usually large enough for IM injection. The vaccine should not be injected into the gluteal area or areas where there is a major nerve trunk.

**Precautions**

* Moderate to severe illness, with or without fever (temporary precaution)
* Individuals who experience Arthus-type hypersensitivity reactions following a prior dose of tetanus toxoids usually have high serum tetanus antitoxin levels and should not be given further routine or even emergency doses of Td vaccine more frequently than every 10 years, even if they have a wound that is neither clean nor minor.
* As with other intramuscular injections, use with caution in patients on anticoagulant therapy.

**Contraindications**

Individuals with:

* Anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of DT, latex, or any other component of the vaccine (see package insert for specific components)
* This vaccine is not recommended for persons aged 7 years and older.

**Adverse Events**

* See the product’s package insert
* See Adverse Events Following Vaccinations page of this section

**Storage and Handling**

* Store in refrigerator at 36oF – 46oF (2oC – 8oC)

DO NOT FREEZE; discard if product has been frozen.

Last updated July 31, 2008 and August 1, 2012

**Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids and   
Acellular Pertussis (DTaP) Vaccine Adsorbed**

**Precautions and Contraindications**

Screen all patients for precautions and contraindications to immunization.

**Recommended Schedule**

DTaP is indicated for active immunization against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis in infants and children 6 weeks through 6 years of age (prior to seventh birthday).

DTaP should not be administered to any infant before the age of 6 weeks or to individuals aged 7 years or older.

**DTaP Schedule for Children < 7 Years of Age, Unless a Contraindication**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Dose** | **Vaccine** | **Recommended** **Age** | **Accelerated Schedule** |
| 1 | DTaP | 2 months | > 6 weeks of age |
| 2 | DTaP | 4 months | > 1 month after 1st dose |
| 3 | DTaP | 6 months | > 1 month after 2nd dose |
| 4 | DTaP | 15 through 18 months | > 6 months after 3rd dose |
| 5 | DTaP | 4 through 6 years | > 6 months after 4th dose |
| Additional  Boosters | Tdap/Td | 11 through 12 years of age, if  > 5 years since 5th dose, then every 10 years | 1st booster > 5 years after the 5th dose, then every 10 years |

**Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids Adsorbed (For Pediatric Use), DT,** is indicated only for children less than 7 years of age and for whom pertussis vaccine is specifically contraindicated. (See DT protocol)

**Dosage and Route**

Give DTaP vaccine 0.5 mL intramuscularly (IM) according to the recommended schedule.   
*Do NOT administer this product intravenously or subcutaneously.*

See protocols for Tdap and Td vaccines

Always check the package insert prior to administration of any vaccine.

**Anatomical Site**

Administer IM vaccines at a 90o angle with a 22- to 25-gauge needle.

* For infants < 12 months of age, administer into the anterolateral aspect of the thigh with a 7/8- to 1-inch needle. (For newborn and or low birth weight infants only, a 5/8” needle may be considered.)
* For children > 12 months of age, administer into the anterolateral aspect of the thigh or deltoid muscle, using a 7/8- to 1¼-inch needle.
* As with other intramuscular injections, use with caution in patients on anticoagulant therapy.

**Precautions**

* Moderate to severe illness, with or without fever (temporary precaution)
* Temperature of 105o F (40.5o C) or higher within 48 hours after previous dose of DTaP or, DTP unexplained by any other cause
* Seizures or convulsions, with or without fever, within 72 hours after previous dose of DTaP or DTP
* Collapse or shock-like state (e.g., hypotonic hyporesponsive episode) within 48 hours after previous dose of DTaP or DTP
* Persistent, inconsolable crying lasting 3 hours or longer within 48 hours of previous dose of DTaP or DTP
* Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) within 6 weeks after a dose of DTaP or DTP
* Underlying unstable neurologic disorders (including seizure disorders cerebral palsy, and developmental delay)

**Contraindications**

Individuals with:

* Anaphylactic reaction to previous dose of DTaP, latex, or any other component of the vaccine (see package insert for specific components)should not receive DTaP.
* Encephalopathy (e.g., coma, decreased level of consciousness, prolonged seizures) not due to another identifiable cause within 7 days of previous dose of DTP or DTaP
* Progressive neurologic disorder, including infantile spasms, uncontrolled epilepsy, progressive encephalopathy -- defer DTaP until neurologic status clarified and stabilized

**Adverse Events**

* See the product’s package insert
* See Adverse Events Following Vaccinations page of this section

**Storage and Handling**

* Store in refrigerator at 36oF – 46oF (2oC – 8oC)
* DO NOT FREEZE; discard if product has been frozen.

**Other Important Notes**

* Administer DTaP vaccine simultaneously with all other vaccines indicated according to the recommended schedule and the patient’s current vaccine status.
* DTaP and DT should **not** be given to individuals aged 7 years and older.
* The fourth dose of DTaP may be administered as early as 12 months of age, provided 6 months have elapsed since the third dose and the child is unlikely to return at age 15 through 18 months.
* The fifth dose of DTaP is not necessary if the fourth dose was given on or after the 4th birthday.

Last updated August 1, 2012 and July 1, 2017