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### The vaccine

Vaccination is the best protection against tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, and their complications. Tdap vaccine is given to people aged 4 and older who require protection against these 3 diseases and to all pregnant women during each pregnancy, preferably between the 26th and the 32nd week.

### Symptoms after vaccination

Some symptoms may be caused by the vaccine (e.g. redness at the injection site). Other problems may occur by chance and are not related to the vaccine (e.g. cold, gastro, headache).

Tdap vaccine is safe. Most reactions are harmless and do not last long.

### Frequency

| Frequency                  | Possible reactions to the vaccine                                      | What to do                                                                 |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|                                                                          |
| In most cases (more than 50% of people) | • Pain at the injection site  
• Fatigue, headache                                                                 |                                                                          |
| Very often (less than 50% of people)  | • Redness and swelling at the injection site  
• Discomfort, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, shivering                      | • Apply a cold, damp compress at the injection site.  
• Use a medication for fever or discomfort if needed.  
• See a doctor if symptoms are severe. |
| Often (less than 10% of people)     | • Fever  
• Loss of appetite, vomiting  
• Irritability, drowsiness (sleepiness)  
• Skin rash  
• Swollen lymph nodes                                                                 |                                                                          |
| Sometimes (less than 1% of people)  | • Small lump for a few weeks at the injection site                                                     |                                                                          |
| Very rarely (less than 1 person in 10,000) | • Sterile abscess at the injection site  
• Intense pain and weakness in the arm for several weeks                  |                                                                          |