

Tdap Vaccine

Combined tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine

Vaccination,
the best protection

August 2020

Vaccination is the best protection against tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough and their complications.

Diseases	Signs and symptoms	Possible complications
Tetanus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Muscle spasms in the jaw• Vocal chords spasms• Muscle spasms throughout the body	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respiratory and cardiac problems• Death (10 to 80% of cases)
Diphtheria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serious sore throat• High fever• Respiratory problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cardiac problems• Paralysis• Death (5 to 10% of cases)
Whooping cough	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violent fits of coughing that can persist for months• Difficulty eating, drinking and breathing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ear infection• Pneumonia• Convulsions• Brain damage (1 case in 11,000)• Death, especially before the age of 3 months

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 32th 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	Possible reactions to the vaccine	What to do
In most cases (more than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain at the injection site• Fatigue, headache	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
Very often (less than 50% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redness and swelling at the injection site• Discomfort, dizziness, nausea, diarrhea, shivering	
Often (less than 10% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fever• Loss of appetite, vomiting• Irritability, drowsiness (sleepiness)• Skin rash• Swollen lymph nodes	
Sometimes (less than 1% of people)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small lump for a few weeks at the injection site	
Very rarely (less than 1 person in 10,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sterile abscess at the injection site	

We recommend that you stay at the clinic for at least 15 minutes after vaccination because allergic reactions may occur. If an allergic reaction occurs, the symptoms will appear a few minutes after the vaccination. The person giving the vaccine will be able to treat this reaction immediately.

For any questions, contact Info-Santé 811 or your doctor.