



Public Health Department

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HEALTH UPDATE

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TDAP FOR EVERY PREGNANCY REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION HISTORY **Severe infant pertussis often reflects missed opportunities for third trimester Tdap immunization**

Pertussis is widespread in the United States. Young infants are at highest risk. All Californians who died of pertussis in the last decade were infants younger than 4 months of age, most of whom were too young to begin receiving pertussis vaccine directly.

To cover this gap in immunity during early infancy, ACOG, CDC, and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommend that women receive a dose of Tdap vaccine between 27 and 36 weeks of every pregnancy regardless of their vaccination history. Maternal transplacental pertussis antibodies resulting from third trimester Tdap immunization can help protect young infants until they are old enough to be immunized. In contrast, postpartum maternal vaccination occurs too late to provide transplacental antibodies, while immunity from maternal immunization before the third trimester may decline too rapidly to protect the infant.

Rates of prenatal immunization are highest when women are immunized during their prenatal examinations rather than after referral. We encourage all prenatal care providers to immunize during prenatal visits, or until this is possible, to adopt reliable methods that ensure that offsite immunization occurs and is being monitored closely by the prenatal provider; otherwise, opportunities to protect young infants from severe pertussis will be lost.

For additional information on prenatal Tdap immunization, please review resources from

ACOG: <http://www.immunizationforwomen.org/>

CDPH: <http://eziz.org/resources/pertussis-promo-materials/tdap-webinar-obs/>

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/tdap-pregnancy-hcp.htm>

We know there are many challenges to prenatal immunization, and we would appreciate hearing about any difficulties you are facing.

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