

# Memorandum

To: Local Health Departments

From: Sietske de Fijter, M.S.  
Chief, Bureau of Infectious Diseases

Date: February 3, 2011

Re: New Tdap Vaccine Recommendations

On October 27, 2010, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) approved changes to the use of Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) and adopted a new Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) resolution regarding the use of Tdap vaccine in children and adolescents. These approved ACIP recommended changes were officially published in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) *Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* on January 14, 2011. The ACIP now recommends: 1) the use of Tdap regardless of the time interval since the last tetanus- or diphtheria-toxoid containing vaccine; 2) the use of Tdap in certain adults aged 65 years and older; and 3) the use of Tdap in undervaccinated children aged 7 through 10 years.

The Ohio Department of Health supports the ACIP recommendations as listed in the *MMWR* from January 14, 2011. A summary of the recommendations are as follows:

#### **Timing of Tdap:**

- Tdap can be administered regardless of the interval since the last tetanus-toxoid or diphtheria-toxoid containing vaccine.

#### **Use of Tdap in Adults Aged 65 Years and Older:**

- Adults aged 65 years and older who have not previously received Tdap, and who have or who anticipate having close contact with a child younger than age 12 months, should receive a single dose of Tdap to reduce the likelihood of transmitting pertussis to an infant. Other adults age 65 years and older who have not previously received Tdap may be given a single dose of Tdap in place of Td (tetanus and diphtheria toxoid).

#### **Use of Tdap in Adolescents Aged 11 Through 18 Years:**

- Adolescents aged 11 through 18 years who have completed the recommended childhood diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis/diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTP/DTaP) vaccination series should receive a single dose of Tdap. Adolescents should preferably receive Tdap at the 11 to 12 year-old preventive health-care visit.

#### **Undervaccinated Children Aged 7 Through 10 Years:**

- Children aged 7 through 10 years who have not completed a primary series of pertussis-containing vaccine (DTaP) should receive a single dose of Tdap as part of their catch-up schedule.

- Those children not fully vaccinated against pertussis and for whom no contraindication to pertussis vaccine exists should receive a single dose of Tdap. (Fully vaccinated is defined as 5 doses of DTaP or 4 doses of DTaP if the fourth dose was administered on or after the fourth birthday.)
- Those never vaccinated against tetanus, diphtheria, or pertussis or who have unknown vaccination status should receive a series of three vaccinations containing tetanus and diphtheria toxoids. The first of these three doses should be Tdap.

Please refer to the official recommendations as published in the *MMWR* dated January 14, 2011 located at the following site:

[http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6001a4.htm?s\\_cid=mm6001a4\\_w](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6001a4.htm?s_cid=mm6001a4_w)

While CDC has fully adopted these ACIP recommendations, healthcare providers should be aware that the current package inserts for Boostrix® (1/2011) and Adacel® (12/2010) do not contain some of these recommendations and they are thus considered off-label use.

### **Tdap School-Based Clinics**

Generally, school-based immunization clinics have been authorized by ODH only in limited circumstances to perform vaccination initiatives with available vaccine. Prior to 2010, the last memo issued by ODH to clarify this policy was dated September 25, 2008.

In February 2010, ODH issued a memo to local health departments that made an exception to this policy because funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) were used to purchase additional Tdap vaccine. This ARRA purchased Tdap vaccine could be used for school-based vaccination clinics in the spring or fall of 2010 for those students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The vaccine purchased for this special, one-time initiative has been allocated. As a result, there remains no available ARRA-purchased Tdap vaccine for 7<sup>th</sup> grade Tdap vaccine clinics.

At this time, ODH does not have sufficient supplies of Tdap vaccine for on-going school-based clinics. However, local health departments will be allowed to conduct Tdap vaccine clinics in individual schools where at least 75% of the students qualify for free or reduced school lunches (this standard helps to ensure that most of these children will be VFC eligible). Health departments must continue to screen for VFC eligibility in these clinics.

Local health departments who desire to conduct school-based Tdap vaccine clinics will need to gain pre-approval from the ODH Immunization Program prior to ordering the vaccine. Requests for the use of VFC or state-supplied vaccine at specific school-based clinics are to be forwarded to Amy Bashforth via e-mail at [amy.bashforth@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:amy.bashforth@odh.ohio.gov) or fax at (614) 728-4279. Please forward all the following identifying information with the request:

- The contact name and information for the person coordinating the clinic
- The school name and dates of proposed immunization clinics
- Evidence that the school in question has more than 75% of the population qualifying for VFC or for school lunch programs
- The cohort selected and the approximate number of children in the cohort

### **Tdap Vaccine for Adults**

At this time, ODH has limited supplies of Tdap vaccine for adults aged 19 years and older. Local health departments may use this limited ODH-supplied vaccine only for adult caregivers of young children in order to help prevent pertussis disease.

ODH supplies of Tdap vaccine for adults are not sufficient to conduct special Tdap vaccine clinics.