

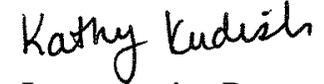


STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

TO: All Participants in the Tdap Cocooning Initiative

FROM: Mick Bolduc 
Vaccines For Children (VFC) Coordinator

Kathy Kudish 
Epidemiologist, Immunization Program

DATE: March 6, 2013

SUBJECT: Updated Tdap Recommendations and Patient Eligibility

The primary purpose of this communication is to inform you of the new Tdap vaccine recommendations and to clarify any impact on patient eligibility for the Tdap Cocoon Program.

Updated Tdap Vaccine Recommendation for Pregnant Women

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recently published its *Updated Recommendations for Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap) in Pregnant Women — Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2012*; the full statement is available at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6207a4.htm?s_cid=mm6207a4_e.

ACIP now recommends Tdap during every pregnancy. To maximize the maternal antibody response and passive antibody transfer to the infant, optimal timing for Tdap administration is between 27 and 36 weeks gestation although Tdap may be given at any time during pregnancy. For women not previously vaccinated with Tdap, if it is not administered during pregnancy, Tdap should be administered immediately postpartum. **At this time additional Tdap doses are only recommended for women who are pregnant.** Currently the recommendation concerning additional Tdap doses among non-pregnant individuals is under discussion by the ACIP; we will notify you of any updates as they occur. Note that the indications on the Tdap package inserts remain for single dose use only.

Patient Eligibility

Patient eligibility for the Tdap Cocoon Program is essentially unchanged. All age-eligible post-partum women and fathers, mothers and fathers of NICU babies, adoptive families, and household contacts and caregivers of infants aged less than 12 months are eligible to receive the Tdap vaccine. Pregnant women are eligible for Tdap vaccine, but because we cannot expand the program to include private OB/gyn providers, we expect these opportunities to be few.

The Immunization Program is committed to continuing the Tdap Cocoon Program through at least the end of calendar year 2013. We will update you in the fall as to the likelihood of the Program's continuation beyond 2013 when we have additional information on funding.

More information, including Tdap Cocoon Program order forms and a list of referral sites, can be found on the Immunization Program web site at <http://www.ct.gov/dph/immunizations> under the "Tdap Cocoon Program" icon. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.