

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Immunization Program

TO: All Participants in the Tdap Cocoon Program

FROM: Mick Bolduc *Mick Bolduc* **Kathy Kudish, DVM, MSPH** *Kathy Kudish*
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DATE: November 6, 2012

SUBJECT: Change in Tdap Brands and Updates to the Tdap Recommendations

The primary purpose of this communication is to inform you of a change in state-supplied vaccine brands for the Tdap Cocoon Program, and to notify you of some upcoming changes to the Tdap vaccine recommendations for pregnant women.

Tdap Vaccine

The Immunization Program will be switching from GlaxoSmithKline's Tdap vaccine (brand name Boostrix) to Sanofi Pasteur's Tdap vaccine (brand name Adacel) for our Tdap Cocoon Program. Adacel is currently licensed for individuals 11 through 64 years of age but can be administered off-label to individuals 65 years and older. Currently the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends vaccination of all individuals who have close contact with infants less than 12 months who have not previously received a dose of Tdap, including those age 65 and older. We strongly encourage vaccination of such individuals with state-supplied Tdap vaccine.

Changes to the ACIP Tdap Recommendations For Pregnant Women

The ACIP voted in October to recommend Tdap vaccination during **each pregnancy irrespective of the patient's prior history of receiving Tdap**. As before, if Tdap is not administered during pregnancy, the vaccine should be administered immediately postpartum. The rationale for the recommendation is to afford passive antibody protection to the newborn for the first few months of life, which is known to be the highest risk period for pertussis. It appears that antibody response from the Tdap vaccine peaks at 1 month after vaccination and decreases significantly after 1 year. Because of this, women who have received the vaccine during a previous pregnancy may not have the same protection at future pregnancies. The past ACIP statement from October 2010 recommends vaccination during the third or late second trimester, and the new recommendation is expected to follow similar timing.

The provisional ACIP recommendation is not expected to be published for several months—typically this process takes 2 to 4 months, and then an additional 2 to 4 months for the full ACIP statement publication. More information on the specifics of the recommendation will not be available until

publication, but we wanted to inform you of the vote to allow you some time for planning, and we will send notice to the Tdap Cocoon Program participants when the full recommendation has been published.

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