

Tdap. vaccine

Information for parents
of children in First Year
of second level school.



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Your child needs to be protected from infectious diseases. Read this leaflet to find out about the vaccine they should get.

What is the Tdap vaccine?

The Tdap vaccine is a new vaccine which protects your child against pertussis (whooping cough) as well as tetanus and diphtheria.

The vaccine works by stimulating your child's immune system to build up and boost protection against these diseases. All these infections are serious diseases that can lead to death.

	Common symptoms	Possible complications
Diphtheria	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sore throat• Fast heart rate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breathing difficulties• Paralysis• Heart failure• Death
Tetanus	Painful muscle spasms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Convulsions• Lockjaw• Death
Pertussis	Irritating cough that sounds like a whoop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Breathing difficulties• Heart and lung failure• Death

Who needs Tdap vaccine?

The Tdap vaccine is given to children aged 11 to 14 years in First Year of second level school. Your child should have received vaccines protecting them from these diseases at two, four and six months of age. Your child should also have received a booster dose in Junior Infants at 4 to 5 years – the 4-in-1 vaccine. All children need a further booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis at 11 to 14 years of age.

Are there any children who should not get Tdap vaccine?

There are very few children who should not get Tdap vaccine. Your child should not get the vaccine if they had a true allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous vaccine containing tetanus.

The vaccine should not be given if your child got a dose of a tetanus containing vaccine (for example following a cut) in the past two years.

You should delay getting the Tdap vaccine if your child is ill with a high fever.

This vaccine is not recommended during pregnancy.

How to get this vaccine for your child

This vaccine is offered to students in the First Year of second level school as part of the school immunisation programme. You will receive information and a consent form before your child is vaccinated.

This vaccine can also be given at the same time as HPV vaccine for girls.

Will my child get a record of this vaccination?

Your child will receive an immunisation record card after vaccination. If you already have an immunisation record card this can be filled in if your child brings it to school on the day of vaccination.

What happens if my child misses the school vaccination?

Your child can still get the vaccine. The HSE will arrange for your child to be immunised at a HSE clinic.

What can I expect following vaccination?

Most children have no problems following this injection. A small number of children may have an area of soreness, swelling and redness where the injection was given. Rarely a child may be irritable or have a fever. If this happens you can give them paracetamol or ibuprofen. You should also give them plenty to drink. Make sure they are not too warm and that their clothes are not rubbing against the injection site.

More information

If you have any queries about your child's vaccinations please discuss this with a member of your HSE school vaccination team, the public health nurse or your GP.

Visit **www.immunisation.ie**

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