

OUTBREAK RESPONSE ADVICE
FREE PERTUSSIS VACCINE FOR NEW PARENTS
Information for all NSW General Practitioners
Please distribute this information to all GPs in your practice

3 Key points for GPs

1. The pertussis epidemic continues in NSW. Babies who are too young to be fully vaccinated are most at risk
2. For a limited time, dTpa vaccine will be provided free for all new parents, grandparents and any other adults who regularly care for infants
3. DTPa (Infanrix-hexa) can be given to babies from 6 weeks of age

The pertussis outbreak is continuing in NSW with more than 3000 cases already reported this year. Timely immunisation of infants is important because unvaccinated infants are at highest risk of infection and are also at high risk of complications. Because pertussis immunity wanes over time, many older children and adults are susceptible to infection and can be the source of new infections in infants.

For a limited time, FREE dTpa vaccine will be available for all new parents, grandparents and any other adults who will regularly care for infants less than 12 months of age.

GPs should advise all new parents to:

- Vaccinate their baby on time.
- Keep their baby away from anyone with a cough.

For new parents, GPs should:

- Check the immunisation status of new parents and other children and provide catch-up vaccination.
- Offer **FREE** dTpa vaccine to **new parents, grandparents and any other adults who regularly care for infants.**
- **Consider vaccinating infants at 6 weeks if the opportunity arises. Infanrix-hexa, Prevenar and Rotarix are all licensed for use in infants from 6 weeks of age.** The next scheduled vaccines should be given at 4 and 6 months of age.

Who is eligible for the FREE dTpa vaccine?

- Couples who are planning a pregnancy (both parents).
- New parents (mothers should be vaccinated as soon as possible after childbirth).
- Grandparents and other adults who will regularly care for the infant.

Ordering FREE dTpa vaccine for adults

- Fax the attached order form to the NSW Vaccine Centre on 1800 041 528.

For more information, please call your local public health unit

Camperdown	02 9515 9420	Penrith	02 4734 2022	Broken Hill	08 8080 1499	Newcastle	02 4924 6477
Gosford	02 4349 4845	Randwick	02 9382 8333	Dubbo	02 6841 5569	Port Macquarie	02 6588 2750
Hornsby	02 9477 9400	Albury	02 6021 4799	Goulburn	02 4824 1837	Tamworth	02 6767 8630
Parramatta	02 9840 3603	Bathurst	02 6339 5601	Lismore	02 6620 7500	Wollongong	02 4221 6700

Please visit our website: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/infectious/index.asp>



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