

Preventing Pertussis, Tetanus and Diphtheria in Pregnant Women

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has issued new recommendations for pertussis, tetanus and diphtheria vaccination of women during and after pregnancy.

For women who have not received the tetanus, reduced diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine previously recommendations are:

- They should be vaccinated postpartum before they leave the hospital or as soon as possible after discharge.
- They may receive it as soon as 2 years since their most recent tetanus and diphtheria vaccination.
- They can receive tetanus and diphtheria vaccination during pregnancy when indicated or defer it to receive Tdap immediately postpartum (if they are likely to have protection against diphtheria and tetanus).

Full text of the new recommendations in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report are available at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr57e0514.pdf>