

# Tdap Vaccine for Family and Caregivers

**A baby's family members and caregivers should be up to date on their vaccinations** to help form a circle of disease protection around the baby.

Who can help prevent the spread of disease to babies by getting vaccinated?

- Parents
- Siblings
- Grandparents
- Babysitters

**Newborns do not yet have fully developed immune systems, making them particularly vulnerable to infections.** Because of this, anyone who is around babies should be up to date on the Whooping cough vaccine (DTaP for children and Tdap for preteens, teens, and adults)



## Whooping cough vaccine for those around babies

Whooping cough is most dangerous for babies, and they do not start getting their own whooping cough vaccines until they are 2 months old. The best way to protect newborns from whooping cough is to make sure pregnant women get a whooping cough shot (called Tdap vaccine) during each pregnancy. Others can also help protect newborns by making sure they have gotten all the recommended whooping cough shots.

- If a child will be around the baby and is not up to date with their whooping cough shots (called DTaP vaccine), they should get vaccinated.
- Preteens, teens, and adults who will be around the baby and have not already had a whooping cough booster shot (called Tdap vaccine) should get vaccinated.

- If a teen or adult will be around the baby and has already had a Tdap vaccine, they do not need to get vaccinated again.

## Family and caregiver vaccine timing

Anyone who needs the whooping cough should get the vaccine at least two weeks before meeting the baby because it takes about two weeks to develop antibodies after vaccination.

When one member of a household has a respiratory illness, other members are at risk for getting ill, too. Researchers have:

- identified siblings and parents as the most common sources of whooping cough infection in young infants.
- found that many other people can get babies sick, including grandparents, caregivers, and friends of the family.

When everyone's vaccinations are up to date, parents can feel more secure about the safety of their child.

For more information and/or to make an appointment call the Cheyenne County Health Department at 785-332-2381.