

Port Jeff Medical Care



The Harbor of Good Health

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PATIENT NAME: _____

SS#: _____-_____-_____

Diphtheria and Tetanus Vaccine

What You Need To Know

1. Why get vaccinated?

Diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis are serious diseases caused by bacteria. Diphtheria and pertussis are spread from person to person. Tetanus enters the body through cuts or wounds.

DIPHTHERIA causes a thick covering in the back of the throat. It can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure, and even death.

TETANUS (Lockjaw) causes painful tightening of the muscles, usually all over the body. It can lead to “locking” of the jaw so the victim cannot open his mouth or swallow. Tetanus leads to death in about 1 out of 10 cases.

Vaccination is the best way to protect against tetanus and diphtheria. Because of vaccination there are fewer cases of these diseases. Cases are rare in children because most get DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis), DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus and acellular Pertussis), or DT (Diphtheria, Tetanus) vaccines. There would be many more cases if we stopped vaccinating people.

2. Who should get Td vaccine and when?

Td is made for people 7 years or older.

People who have not gotten at least three doses of any tetanus and diphtheria vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT) should do so using Td. After a person gets the third dose, a Td dose is needed every 10 years all through life. Other vaccines may be given at the same time as Td.

3. Some people should not get DTaP vaccine or should wait.

Tell the doctor or nurse if the person getting the vaccine:

- ever had a serious allergic reaction or other problem with Td, or any tetanus and diphtheria vaccine (DTP, DTaP, or DT).
- now has a moderate or severe illness.
- is pregnant

If you are unsure, ask your doctor or nurse.

4. What are the risks from Td vaccine?

Getting a vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions or death. The risk of Td vaccine is much smaller than from the diseases it prevents. Almost all people who get Td have no problem with it.

Mild Problems (Common)

- If problems occur, they usually start within hours to a day or two after vaccination. They usually last for 1-2 days.
- Soreness, redness or swelling where the shot was given.
- These problems can occur worse in adults who get Td often.

Acetaminophen or ibuprofen (non-aspirin) may be used to reduce soreness.

Severe Problems (Very Rare)

- Serious allergic reaction
- Deep aching pain, and muscle wasting in upper arm(s). This usually starts 2-4 days after vaccination and may last for many months.

5. *What if there is a moderate or severe reaction?*

What should I look for?

Any unusual conditions, such as a serious allergic reaction, high fever or unusual behavior. Serious allergic reactions are extremely rare with any vaccine. If one were to occur, it would most likely be within a few minutes to a few hours after the shot. Signs can include difficulty breathing, hoarseness or wheezing, hives, paleness, weakness, a fast heart beat or dizziness. If a high fever or seizure were to occur, it would usually be within a week after the shot.

What should I do?

- Call a doctor, or get the person to a doctor right away.
- Tell your doctor what happened, the date and time it happened, and when the vaccination was given.
- Ask your doctor, nurse, or health department to file a Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) form, or call VAERS yourself at **1-800-822-7967**.

6. *The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.*

In the rare event that you or your child has a serious reaction to a vaccine, a federal program has been created to help pay for the care of those who have been harmed. For details about the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, call **1-800-338-2382** or visit the program's website at **<http://www.hrsa.gov/osp/vicp>**

8. *How can I learn more?*

Ask your health care provider. They can give you the vaccine package insert or suggest other sources of information. Call your local or state health department's immunization program.

Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Call **1-800-232-2522** (English)
- Call **1-800-232-0233** (Español)
- Visit the National Immunization Program's website at **<http://www.cdc.gov/nip>**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Immunization Program

Td (6/10/94) 40 U.S.C. § 300aa-26

CONSENT

I have reviewed the information above with the patient. If there are any questions or problems, the patient can call us at (631) 642-1100 Monday-Friday from 9AM-5PM.

LeeAnn Terranova, LPN

Nancy Diaz, LPN

Christina Foster, LPN

Dr. _____

Vaccine Given: Rt Lt Deltoid Thigh Buttock

Date: