

# Important Information about Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis diseases and Adacel (dTap) Vaccine

## PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY

### What is TETANUS?

- Tetanus is also called lockjaw.
- It is a disease that occurs when cuts or wounds are infected with tetanus bacteria.
- The bacteria, which are often found in dirt, make a poison that causes the muscles of the body to go into spasm.
- It can be a life-threatening disease.
- It is preventable through immunization.

### What is DIPHTHERIA?

- Diphtheria is a very serious disease.
- It can cause an infection of the nose and throat that can affect breathing.
- It can cause an infection of the skin.
- It can cause heart failure or paralysis.
- About 1 person out of every 10 who get diphtheria dies.
- It is preventable through immunization.

### What is PERTUSSIS?

- Pertussis is also called whooping cough. It is caused by bacteria.
- It can cause severe coughing spells that can affect breathing and that last for weeks or months. The disease usually lasts 6 to 12 weeks.
- It can cause pneumonia.
- It can cause convulsions and even death in some cases.
- It is preventable through immunization.

### What Is the Vaccine for Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis?

- Adacel is the name of a vaccine used to prevent tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. This vaccine is also called dTap.
- Adacel is three vaccines in one.
- Immunization with Adacel is the best way to prevent diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough in teens.
- The vaccine is given by injection.

### Who Should Receive Adacel Vaccine for Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis?

The Nova Scotia schedule recommends that this vaccine be given to

- teens aged 14–16 years (school immunization program)

### CAUTION

#### ***SOME PEOPLE SHOULD CHECK WITH A DOCTOR BEFORE THEY RECEIVE THIS VACCINE.***

People who

- are allergic to any of the vaccine's ingredients
- are sick or have a fever (temperature of 39.5°C/103°F or greater)
- are taking high doses of oral steroids
- are undergoing treatment for cancer
- have problems with their immune system, which lowers the body's resistance to infection

#### **Who Should Not Receive Adacel Vaccine?**

- people who have had an anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of Adacel or any other vaccine ingredients

*Please read other side.*

# What to Expect Following Immunization with **Adacel (dTap) Vaccine**

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Your child has received Adacel (dTap) vaccine. This vaccine is important in protecting your child from tetanus (lockjaw), diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).

*People should stay in the clinic for at least 15 minutes after receiving any type of immunization to monitor possible reaction. As with any vaccine there is a slight possibility that a more serious reaction could occur.*

### What Are the Possible Side Effects from the Vaccine?

- The most common side effects of Adacel vaccine are pain, redness, and swelling at the site of the injection.
- Other, less common side effects are: mild headache, fever, diarrhea, nausea, chills, body ache, decreased energy, and sore or swollen joints.

*As fever may occur, make sure you have acetaminophen at home. Follow the instructions on the bottle.*

### Call Your Doctor If

- The fever lasts longer than 24 hours.
- Your child's temperature is 39.5°C (103°F) or greater.
- The fever fails to go down after the acetaminophen.

### Questions?

If you have any questions about tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough, or the Adacel vaccine, please call your local Public Health Services office or your family doctor.

For more information on immunization, please visit the websites of

- the Canadian Coalition for Immunization Awareness at [www.immunize.cpha.ca](http://www.immunize.cpha.ca)
- the Public Health Agency of Canada at [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca)