

Protection from Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis - Grade 9 booster

Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis

Childhood vaccines are given to children when they are very young to protect them against diseases such as tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough. At 14-16 years of age a booster is offered to provide continuing protection throughout the teens and early adulthood. The needle is given in the muscle in the upper arm. A person, who is sick with a fever or anything more than a cold, should not receive this needle; it can be delayed until the person is well.

Tetanus (lockjaw)

Tetanus is caused by bacteria present in soil, dust and manure. If the bacteria infect a cut, they can produce a poison that causes severe muscle spasms that can lead to death. Six people in 10 who get tetanus will die from it.

Diphtheria

Diphtheria is caused by bacteria that can infect the nose and throat and cause difficulty breathing. It can also cause skin or ear infections, can lead to heart failure, nerve damage, or death. One person in 10 who gets diphtheria will die from it.

Pertussis (whooping cough)

Pertussis is caused by a bacterial infection that can be spread very easily from one person to another. It causes severe coughing that interferes with breathing. Complications of pertussis include seizures or convulsions, pneumonia, and brain damage. In Canada, deaths occur from pertussis each year.

During the Grade 9 year at age 14-16 years the Community/Public health nurse will be offering a booster for dTap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis or whooping cough). Parental/ Legal guardian consent is required.