



October 27, 2017

**Re: Publicly Funded Tdap Vaccine to be offered to  
All Pregnant Women as of 26 Weeks Gestation**

Dear Colleague:

Due to increased pertussis activity provincially, a dose of Tdap vaccine is currently recommended for all pregnant women who are at least 26 weeks gestation.

As a result, the following measures are implemented:

1. All pregnant women should be offered a publicly funded Tdap vaccine dose as of 26 weeks gestation, irrespective of any Tdap dose given prior to their current pregnancy.
2. All household contacts of newborns should have their pertussis immunization status assessed (ideally before the baby is born) and be offered immunization when they are delayed (e.g. siblings) or are eligible for an adult Tdap dose. Adults are generally eligible for 1 publically funded Tdap dose in their lifetime when they are due for a tetanus booster every 10 years.
3. If Tdap vaccine was provided early in the pregnancy (e.g. prior to recognition of pregnancy), it is not necessary to re-immunize after 13 weeks gestation.
4. It is preferred Tdap vaccine is not delayed until close to delivery since this may provide insufficient time for optimal transfer of maternal antibodies and direct protection of the infant against pertussis.
5. Postpartum women who have previously received their one adult Tdap are not eligible for a second dose.

You can help to protect women and babies by routinely recommending and administering this vaccine. Studies confirm that your recommendations and offer of vaccines are critical. Maternal Tdap immunization as of 26 weeks gestation provides very good antibody protection against pertussis in infants up to 3 months of age.

- You are encouraged to share the *Parents Can Protect their Babies from Pertussis* fact sheets posted at <https://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/diseases-and-conditions/pertussis-whooping-cough>.
- The Tdap vaccine fact sheet is available at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/residents/health/accessing-health-care-services/immunization-services#immunization-forms-and-fact-sheets>

For more information, please contact me at 306-655-4338.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Dr. Simon Kapaj  
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