

# Use of dTap and Td Vaccines in Wound Management

**Date:** Thursday, October 03, 2019

**To:** Emergency Department Physicians; Emergency Department Staff; Family Physicians; U of A Rural Family Medicine Program; Acute Care Pharmacists; Nurse Practitioners; Workplace Health and Safety; First Nations and Inuit Health

**CC:** Central Zone Medical Affairs; Communicable Disease Control; Public Health Nursing

**From:** Dr. Digby Horne, Medical Officer of Health – Central Zone

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This memo is in response to instances of adult patients receiving unnecessary doses of dTap vaccine as part of wound management.

Both dTap and Td vaccines can be used for tetanus prevention during wound management. The routine adult immunization schedule for pertussis includes only a single dose of dTap at age 18 yrs. or older, regardless of previous pertussis immunization history. Pregnant women are an exception: they should receive a dose of dTap during each pregnancy.

**Therefore, when providing a tetanus-containing vaccine during wound management in a non-pregnant adult patient, Td vaccine should be used if a dose of dTap has already been given at 18 yrs. or later; if not, give dTap.**

To determine previous immunization history, please consult the *Immunization History* tab in Netcare.

Additional details concerning the prevention of tetanus during wound management are available in the *Central Zone Guide to Wound Tetanus Prophylaxis in Emergency Departments (EDs)*, available on the Central Zone MOH website: [www.ahs.ca/czmoh](http://www.ahs.ca/czmoh) (see *Tetanus* under the *Resources* tab).

Thank you for your attention and assistance in this matter. This and other MOH bulletins are posted on the [www.ahs.ca/moh](http://www.ahs.ca/moh) website.