



PERTUSSIS VACCINE FOR FAMILIES OF INFANTS

Congratulations on the birth of your new baby!

We are excited to begin our relationship with you and your child as we provide pediatric care for your family.

We encourage parents and caregivers of infants to obtain pertussis vaccination booster for themselves as soon as possible after the birth of the new baby. Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a serious bacterial infection of the lungs. Young infants who get pertussis are at risk for lung damage, brain damage and death. Infant vaccines include pertussis (the "P" in the DTaP vaccine), but it takes a series of vaccines over months for the infant's immune system to give full protection.

Immunity from pertussis vaccination in early childhood wears off by about the age of ten. Pertussis infection in older children or adults causes a prolonged cough but is often unrecognized, incorrectly assumed to be a bad cold. We know that most babies who get pertussis catch it from a parent, sibling or caregiver.

Therefore, we recommend that parents and caregivers of infants receive a Tdap booster. This is a combination tetanus and pertussis vaccine, and counts for a tetanus booster as well. A two-year interval is recommended between the most recent tetanus booster and Tdap. Siblings age 11 and up should also receive Tdap vaccine.

Please contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible to discuss this vaccine. If interested, we can immunize you and other caregivers here at our office for a fee of \$60. Please ask about this today.

We look forward to a long and healthy relationship with you and your newborn.