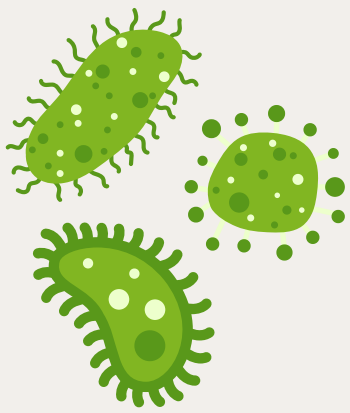
Protect Me From...

Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP)



THREE DIFFERENT BACTERIA

1. DIPHTHERIA: TROUBLE BREATHING, THROAT SWELLING, HEART AND NERVE DAMAGE

2. TETANUS: PAINFUL MUSCLE SPASMS, STIFFNESS, TROUBLE BREATHING

3. PERTUSSIS (WHOOPING COUGH): SEVERE COUGHING FITS, CHOKING, VOMITING, AND BREATHING PAUSES

Disease Information

WHAT HAPPENS

- Diphtheria: Causes a thick coating in the throat that can lead to breathing problems, heart damage, paralysis, or death.
- Tetanus (Lockjaw): Causes painful muscle stiffness and spasms that can interfere with breathing.
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough): Causes severe coughing fits, choking, vomiting, and pauses in breathing, especially dangerous for infants.

WHY GET VACCINATED

These diseases are dangerous.
These diseases can be life-threatening.
Infants and young children are at the highest risk for severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

HOW IT SPREADS

- Diphtheria & Pertussis: Spread through coughing, sneezing, or close contact
- Tetanus: Enters the body through cuts or wounds

Vaccine Information

HOW IT WORKS

DTaP is an inactivated (non-live) vaccine that helps the immune system recognize and fight diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis bacteria without causing disease.

VACCINE SCHEDULE

5-dose series given at:

- 2 months
- 4 months
- 6 months
- 15–18 months
- 4–6 years

Older children, teens, & adults receive Tdap boosters.

POTENTIAL SIDE EFFECTS

- Redness, soreness, or swelling at injection site
- Low-grade fever
- Fussiness, tiredness
- Mild muscle aches

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Protect Me From...

DIPHTHERIA, TETANUS, and PERTUSSIS (DTaP)

FAQ

Is the DTaP vaccine safe?
Yes. The DTaP vaccine has been used for many years and is closely monitored for safety. Serious allergic reactions are rare.

Does the DTaP vaccine cause diphtheria, tetanus, or pertussis?
No. DTaP is an inactivated (non-live) vaccine and cannot cause diphtheria, tetanus, or whooping cough.

Why does my child need so many doses?
Multiple doses help build strong, long-lasting immunity because protection improves with each dose in the series.

How long does protection last?
Protection decreases over time, which is why multiple doses and booster vaccines (Tdap) are recommended as children get older.

Do I still need the DTaP vaccine if I'm healthy?
Yes. Even healthy children can become very sick from these infections and spread them to others.

TALK WITH YOUR DOCTOR

If your child:

- Had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of DTaP or has any severe, life-threatening allergies
- Had a seizure, high fever, or prolonged crying after a previous DTaP dose
- Has a history of certain neurologic conditions
- Is moderately or severely ill at the time of vaccination

CHOP

MORE INFORMATION FROM THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

FEEDBACK/ SURVEY

PLEASE FILL OUT A SHORT SURVEY TO HELP US IMPROVE

This does not replace the Vaccine Information Statements by the CDC