

Pertussis

Pertussis is very contagious and can cause serious illness - especially in infants who are too young to be fully vaccinated. In adults, pertussis symptoms can be very mild and may resemble a common cold or bronchitis. As a result, many cases go undiagnosed increasing the risk of your child being exposed. Adolescents and adults need to be revaccinated, even if they were completely vaccinated as children, to prevent exposure to infants not yet vaccinated. The vaccine you received as children may wear off after 5-10 years. That's why the CDC recommends that everyone from 11-64 years gets a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) booster.

Since the 1980's there's been a dramatic increase in the number of cases of pertussis, especially among teens and babies less than 6 months of age. In 2008 there were more than 13,000 cases including 18 deaths from pertussis nationally. We will offer and encourage you to get a Tdap booster while you are in the hospital after you deliver. We recommend that anyone who will be in close contact should be vaccinated at least 1 month before coming into contact with the baby.

Walgreens across the street will offer Tdap vaccinations for anyone. They charge \$65.00 for the vaccine and injection. Some insurance companies will pay. You can also check into your County Health Departments. For people who live in Adams/Boulder County you can call 303-665-2962

Check out www.cdc.gov/features/pertussis

www.doitforyourbaby.com