

# GET YOUR dTap VACCINE!

## The diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (dTap) vaccine

### What does this vaccine protect against?

Protects against 3 different diseases:

- **Diphtheria:** A bacterial infection of the nose and throat that can cause difficulty breathing or swallowing, heart problems, and paralysis (inability to move all or part of the body).
- **Tetanus:** A bacterial infection that attacks the nervous system and causes uncontrolled spasms of the jaw and body muscles, including the muscles that control breathing. It can cause difficulty swallowing and breathing, seizures, and death.
- **Pertussis (Whooping Cough):** A bacterial infection of the airways and lungs that causes a cough that can last several weeks to months, difficulty breathing and swallowing, and pneumonia.



### Who should get this vaccine?

**If you had your routine immunizations on schedule, you need an extra dose (booster) of dTap at the following times:**

- Grade 9 (14-15 years of age) as a part of the school immunization program.
- If you had cut or poked yourself with something dirty (depending on when your last dose was).
- Every 10 years as an adult.
- During pregnancy (It is best if you get the vaccine between 27 and 32 weeks of pregnancy).
- If you will be in close contact with a baby, and you have never had a dose of pertussis vaccine as an adult.



**Who should not get this vaccine?** If you have an allergy to any component of the vaccine or if you had a severe or unusual side effect after this vaccine or one like it.

**What are the side effects of this vaccine?** The side effects tend to be very mild and temporary and include redness/swelling/soreness at the injection site, crying, fatigue, irritability, fever, poor appetite, swollen lymph nodes, etc. Side effect symptoms can be managed by placing a cool, wet cloth on the injection site or by taking medications like ibuprofen or acetaminophen to deal with fever or pain.



**If you have any additional questions or want to schedule your vaccination, you can:**

- Call Health Link at 811
- Call AIMGA's Multilingual Health Hub for Newcomers Phone Line at 1-587-392-8062
- Contact your family physician or primary care network
- Visit [booking.aimga.ca](https://booking.aimga.ca) to book a patient navigator