

Infant pertussis cases highlight gaps in maternal Tdap vaccination

Earlier this month, we sent out a news release (www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2020/pertussis010820.html) reporting our first infant death related to pertussis since 2013. We have also seen additional severe infant pertussis cases in 2019 resulting in lengthy hospital stays in the intensive care unit.

These cases reinforce the importance of providers recommending the tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccination during the third trimester of each pregnancy. Maternal vaccination rates in Minnesota remain low. Coverage dropped from 58% of pregnant women vaccinated among children born in 2013-14 to 52% vaccinated among 2017 births. In 2018 and 2019, Minnesota had 41 cases of pertussis among infants less than 6 months of age. Upon review, only 44% of the mothers received Tdap during pregnancy.

We are missing the opportunity to protect vulnerable infants from this serious disease. Strongly recommend Tdap vaccination for your pregnant patients reinforcing that this vaccine provides protection for their baby in the first months of life. See CDC's Toolkit for Prenatal Care Providers (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pregnancy/hcp-toolkit/index.html) for resources and tips on giving a strong recommendation.

Think, test, treat (and vaccinate) to prevent pertussis

In 2019 we saw an increase in pertussis cases that has continued into 2020. Vaccination is a key part of preventing pertussis, but identifying pertussis in all age groups is also essential. The earlier pertussis is identified the more effective antibiotics are in treating the symptoms. Pertussis is often underdiagnosed or mistaken for other illnesses in adolescents and adults. This can lead to continued community spread of pertussis, including spread to infants who have not received three doses of DTaP. With the increase in pertussis in Minnesota, we want providers to:

- **Think** of pertussis in patients with a cough illness who were exposed to pertussis or whose cough has lasted more than seven days.
- **Test** for pertussis in patients presenting with cough illness of more than seven days, or more than three days if known exposure to pertussis.
 - Collect nasopharyngeal specimen for PCR or serum specimen for IgG. See Pertussis - Laboratory Testing (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/pertussis/hcp/labfacts.html).
- **Treat** and report pertussis cases that test positive or are clinically diagnosed to the Minnesota Department of Health.
 - For individuals with pertussis, advise exclusion for the first five days of antibiotic treatment.
- **Vaccinate** your patients on time with DTaP and Tdap vaccines to help prevent pertussis.

Visit Pertussis Information for Health Professionals (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/pertussis/hcp/index.html) for more information.

Give a VIS before vaccinating: It's the law

Federal law requires anyone who vaccinates to give all patients, or their parents or legal guardians, the appropriate VIS before giving vaccines. Get more information at Facts About VISs (www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/about/facts-vis.html).

Clip and save 

Current VISs, January 2020 (Changes from last quarter are in bold italics.)	
Chickenpox - interim	8/15/19
<i>Cholera</i>	<i>10/30/19</i>
DTaP/DT/DTP - interim	8/24/18
Hepatitis A	7/20/16
Hepatitis B - interim	8/15/19
<i>Hib - interim</i>	<i>10/30/19</i>
<i>HPV Gardasil-9</i>	<i>10/30/19</i>
Influenza - TIV - interim	8/15/19
Influenza - LAIV - interim	8/15/19
Japanese encephalitis	8/15/19
Meningococcal (ACWY) - interim	8/15/19
Serogroup B Meningococcal (MenB) - interim	8/15/19
MMR - interim	8/15/19
MMRV - interim	8/15/19
Multi-vaccine	11/5/15
<i>PCV13 - interim</i>	<i>10/30/19</i>
<i>PPSV23 - interim</i>	<i>10/30/19</i>
<i>Polio - interim</i>	<i>10/30/19</i>
<i>Rabies</i>	<i>1/8/20</i>
<i>Rotavirus - interim</i>	<i>10/30/19</i>
<i>Shingles/Zoster (live)</i>	<i>10/30/19</i>
<i>Shingles/Zoster (recombinant)</i>	<i>10/30/19</i>
Td	4/11/17
Tdap	2/24/15
<i>Typhoid</i>	<i>10/30/19</i>
Yellow Fever	3/30/11

2020-21 influenza vaccine prebook orders due today

MnVFC and UUAV influenza vaccine orders for the 2020-21 influenza season are due today (Friday, Jan. 31)! See the MnVFC Announcement (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/hcp/mnvfc/announcements.html) sent on Jan. 27 for specifics on submitting your order.

Celebrate Immunization event

Join fellow Minnesotans for a Celebrate Immunization event on Feb. 18 from 11-11:30 a.m. in the Capitol Rotunda hosted by the Minnesota Childhood Immunization Coalition. The majority of Minnesotans support vaccination, and your voice matters! Learn more about the event and RSVP on the Celebrate Immunization (<https://vaxmnkids.wordpress.com/celebrate-immunization/>) website.