

Tdap or Td vaccine

Your cut, burn or eye injury was treated in the Emergency Department or Urgent Care Centre. You received the:

- Tdap vaccine
- Td vaccine

What is it?

Vaccines (injections or shots) are the best way to protect against some very serious infections.

- **Tdap** is a combination vaccine that protects against three potentially life-threatening bacterial diseases: **tetanus**, **diphtheria**, and **pertussis** (whooping cough).
- **Td** is a booster vaccine for **tetanus** and **diphtheria**. It does not protect against pertussis.

What are Tetanus and Diphtheria and Pertussis?

Tetanus affects the brain and nervous system and causes extremely painful muscle spasms. Spasms of the jaw can make it impossible for you to open your mouth. This condition is often called "lock jaw."

Diphtheria is a very contagious infection that makes it difficult to breathe. In severe cases, it can cause heart and nerve damage.

Pertussis or "whooping cough" is an extremely contagious and can lead to severe breathing problems, especially in babies. A "whoop" noise is heard when the person tries to take a breath after coughing.

Is the vaccine safe and effective?

Yes, the vaccine is very safe and effective. Vaccine safety is continually monitored by Public Health Services.

Most people will have no side effects from the vaccine. However, if they do occur, they tend to be mild and last for only a few days after getting the shot.

Mild pain, swelling and redness are common at the spot where the shot was given. A few people may get a mild fever, lose their appetite or feel tired for a day or two after the shot. Allergic and other severe reactions are very rare.

Keep a record of your protection

After receiving a vaccine, make sure your personal immunization record (the "Yellow Card") is updated. Keep it in a safe place!

When should I get medical help?

Call your health care provider if you have any of these problems within 3 days of receiving the vaccine:

- hives
- swelling of the face or mouth
- trouble breathing
- very pale colour and very drowsy
- convulsions or seizures
- you have a temperature of 38°C (100.4°F) or higher

If you have any questions or concerns, please call your health care provider.