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State Health Director

March 15, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) Participants

**FROM:** Beth Rowe-West, RN, BSN  
Head, Immunization Branch

**SUBJECT:** *Urgent:* Immediate Expansion of Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine

The purpose of this memo is to announce expanded coverage of Tdap vaccine. **Because of increased incidence of pertussis disease (whooping cough) in North Carolina, the NCIP is making Tdap vaccine universally available immediately and until further notice.** It is likely that the program will run through next fall. To prevent the spread of pertussis we are encouraging providers to offer this pertussis-containing vaccine or a pertussis-containing booster shot to individuals for whom it is indicated.

All providers may administer NCIP-provided Tdap to anyone seven years and older (including adults), regardless of insurance status, for whom Tdap is indicated, with a specific emphasis on:

- Cocooning infants, which is defined as the strategy of vaccinating women who may become pregnant, pregnant women, and all close contacts of infants aged <12 months such as parents, siblings, grandparents, household contacts, and child-care providers, with one dose of Tdap.
- Health-care personnel (HCP), who are defined as paid and unpaid persons working in health-care settings who have the potential for exposure to patients and/or to infectious materials. For the full Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations for HCP, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6007.pdf>.
- Anyone with a pre-existing, chronic, respiratory disease and their close contacts
- Any child 18 and under with incomplete protection from pertussis

See <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/ACIP-list.htm#tdap> for the full ACIP recommendations and schedules.

Providers are asked to submit their orders for Tdap along with their regularly scheduled orders for vaccine. Providers may choose to continue to use their private stock for non-VFC-eligible patients. Questions should go to the Help Desk at 1-877-873-6247.

**Remember:** Our vaccine contracts do not permit the use of Tdap product Adacel® for persons aged 19 years and older. Only state-supplied Boostrix® vaccine may be given to adults. See memo at: <http://bit.ly/adultvacc>.

Thank you for your efforts to prevent pertussis transmission through vaccinations.

Cc: SMT                      Field Staff                      Central Office Staff                      Vaccine Manufacturers  
Steve Shore              Peter Graber                      Maclyn Powell                      Terri Pennington  
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