



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

June 10, 2008

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Participants:

Prevention of Pertussis, Tetanus, and Diphtheria Among Pregnant and Postpartum Women and Their Infants

Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization announces publication of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) 2008*; volume 57 (Early Release), numbers 1-47 on May 14, 2008, concerning tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine use among pregnant and postpartum women.

You may view the MMWR at the link provided below:

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr57e0514a1.htm?s_cid=rr57e0514a1_e

The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that pregnant women who were not vaccinated previously with Tdap:

- 1) receive Tdap in the immediate postpartum period before discharge from hospital or birthing center;
- 2) may receive Tdap at an interval as short as 2 years since the most recent Td vaccine;
- 3) may receive Td during pregnancy for tetanus and diphtheria protection when indicated; or
- 4) may defer the Td vaccine indicated during pregnancy to substitute Tdap vaccine in the immediate postpartum period if the woman is likely to have sufficient protection against tetanus and diphtheria.

This *MMWR*:

- 1) describes the clinical features of pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria among pregnant and postpartum women and their infants;
- 2) reviews available evidence of pertussis vaccination during pregnancy as a strategy to prevent infant pertussis;
- 3) summarizes Tdap vaccination policy in the United States; and
- 4) presents recommendations for use of Td and Tdap vaccines among pregnant and postpartum women.

The bureau asks that you provide this information to colleagues, members, coalitions, and partners with an interest in the administration of Tdap vaccine.

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If you have any questions or comments regarding the CDC recommendations, please contact Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Bureau of Immunization, at (850) 245-4342. For information regarding the VFC Program vaccine supply, please contact Robert Griffin or your VFC Program Representative at (800) 483-2543.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Charles H. Alexander, Chief
Bureau of Immunization
Division of Disease Control
Florida Department of Health

CHA/sdh

cc: Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Executive Community Health Nursing Director,
Bureau of Immunization
Robert Griffin, VFC Program Coordinator
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