Who should get vaccinated?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all people age 11 and older should be assessed and receive the Tdap vaccine.¹

The ACIP recommends:

- **Adolescents 11-18 years of age** who have not been previously vaccinated with Tdap should receive a single dose of Tdap
- **All adults 19 years of age and older** who have not received Tdap should receive a single dose
- **Pregnant women** should get one dose of Tdap each pregnancy, preferred at 27 to 36 weeks of gestation
- **Tdap** is recommended over Td for **wound management** in patients 11 years of age and older who have not previously received Tdap
- Anyone 11 years of age and older who has or will have close contact with a baby 12 months of age and younger, who has never received Tdap should receive a single dose
- **Healthcare professionals** who have not already received Tdap should receive a single dose

ACIP=Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

**DO NOT give Tdap if a patient has:**

- Ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to a dose of Tdap or to any diphtheria toxoid, tetanus toxoid, or pertussis containing vaccine, or has a severe allergy to any component of this vaccine²
- Been in a coma or experienced long, repeated seizures within 7 days after a childhood dose of DTP or DTaP, or a previous dose of Tdap, unless a cause other than the vaccine was found²

Please refer to the APhA Tdap Pharmacist Guide for contraindications and precautions. Refer to prescribing information for product-specific information.
Important facts about pertussis:

- Persons with pertussis are most infectious through the first 2 weeks after the cough begins (approximately 21 days). Pertussis can be especially serious in young infants and can lead to death.

- Older siblings, parents or caregivers may not know they are infected with pertussis and may unknowingly spread it to family and friends, including infants.

The benefits of vaccinating in the pharmacy:

- Peace of mind knowing they have taken action to help prevent pertussis within their family

- Convenience of being vaccinated in the pharmacy, which may reduce the delay in making an appointment and result in less time spent at the physician’s office

References: