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****DISTRIBUTE TO ALL PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE AND OFFICE STAFF ****

January 18, 2011

Dear Colleague:

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has made three changes to the recommendations for use of tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. These recommendations apply to both licensed Tdap products (Boostrix[®] [GlaxoSmithKline] and Adacel[®] [Sanofi Pasteur]).

The use of Tdap has been expanded to include children 7, 8, and 9 years of age:

All children who are 7, 8, or 9 years of age who are not fully vaccinated against pertussis and for whom no contraindication to pertussis vaccine exists, should receive a single dose of Tdap to provide protection against pertussis. If additional doses of tetanus and diphtheria toxoid-containing vaccines are needed, then Tdap is recommended for this age group, preferably as the first dose. The use of Tdap in these children fills a gap because until now there has been no recommendation for use of a pertussis-containing vaccine for this age group.

Recommendations for use of Tdap for older children remain unchanged.

There is no minimum interval that must be observed:

Tdap can be administered regardless of when the last tetanus or diphtheria containing vaccine was given. This recommendation allows for pertussis vaccination with Tdap to not be delayed when it is indicated.

Adults aged 65 years and older:

Adults 65 years of age and older who have or who anticipate having close contact with an infant less than 12 months of age (e.g., grandparents, child-care providers and health care workers) should receive a single dose of Tdap to protect against pertussis and reduce the likelihood of transmission. Other adults ages 65 and older may also be given a single dose of Tdap.

Details are available at

http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6001a4.htm?s_cid=mm6001a4_w

Please note that this information is not included in the package inserts for either licensed Tdap product; recommendations from ACIP are considered the standard of immunization practice and vaccine should be administered accordingly. The Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) is being updated to reflect these new recommendations.

For questions related to vaccine supply, the Vaccines for Children Program or about the CIR, e-mail nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov or call 212-676-2323. We thank you for helping to protect New York City residents from vaccine preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc