

# Pediatric DT

Vaccine	Minimal Age for First Dose	Primary Immunization Schedule Doses	Booster Schedule Doses
<b>Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids (Pediatric DT)</b> <i>(Sanofi Pasteur)</i>	6 weeks	Children $\leq 1$ year when beginning series: <b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b> 0.5 mL IM <b>2<sup>nd</sup>:</b> 0.5 mL IM 4-8 weeks later <b>3<sup>rd</sup>:</b> 0.5 mL IM 4-8 weeks later <b>4<sup>th</sup>:</b> 0.5 mL IM 6-12 months later	<b>5<sup>th</sup>:</b> 0.5 mL IM at 4-6 years of age.  5 <sup>th</sup> dose not needed if the 4 <sup>th</sup> dose was given on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday.
		Children $\geq 1$ year when beginning series: <b>1<sup>st</sup>:</b> 0.5 mL IM <b>2<sup>nd</sup>:</b> 0.5 mL IM 4-8 weeks later <b>3<sup>rd</sup>:</b> 0.5 mL IM 6-8 months later	<b>4<sup>th</sup>:</b> 0.5 mL IM at 4-6 years of age.  4 <sup>th</sup> dose not needed if the 3 <sup>rd</sup> dose was given on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Diphtheria and Tetanus Toxoids Vaccine General Recommendations:

- If a child has a valid contraindication to pertussis vaccine, pediatric DT should be used to complete the vaccination series.
- Under 1 year of age, the preferred site for vaccine administration is the vastus lateralis muscle on the anterolateral thigh.
- The number of doses of DT need to complete the series depends on the child's age at the first dose:
  - If the first dose is given at younger than 12 months of age, 4 doses are recommended
  - If the first dose is given at 12 months of age or older, 3 doses complete the primary series

**Diphtheria vaccination for contacts to a diphtheria case:** See Td vaccine fact sheet.

**Adverse Reactions:** A small area of erythema and induration with or without tenderness surrounding the injection site, persisting for a few days, is not unusual. Fever, drowsiness, fretfulness, and anorexia occur but are less common following DT than with pertussis-containing vaccines.

Severe local reaction may occur, particularly in persons who have had multiple prior boosters. Severe systemic reactions such as generalized urticaria (hives), anaphylaxis, or neurologic complications have been reported. A few cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) have been reported following tetanus toxoid administration. Brachial neuritis has rarely been observed.

**Precautions:** History of GBS within 6 weeks of a prior dose of a tetanus-toxoid-containing vaccine. Tetanus vaccination has been very rarely associated with occurrence of GBS. Vaccination is usually justified for children who have had fewer than 3 doses of a tetanus-toxoid-containing vaccine.

**Contraindications:** History of a severe allergic reaction to a vaccine component or following a prior dose of the vaccine. If there is a moderate to severe acute illness, do not vaccinate until improved.

**Vaccine Storage and Handling:** Store vaccine in the refrigerator between 35° and 46°F (2°-8°C). Do not expose vaccines to freezing temperatures. **If frozen – do not use.**