Tips to Increase 4th DTaP Rates

When you speak, parents listen. Parents need to hear from you about the importance of the 4th DTaP dose, which is often missed or delayed. Pertussis continues to be a problem in our state and around the nation. Children in your practice may be at risk if they don't get the 4th DTaP dose on time. Make sure your patients get the 4th DTaP dose as early as possible between 15–18 months.

Use these tips to make sure children get their 4th DTaP

- Check if immunizations are up-to-date at every visit, including acute visits.
- Give all due or overdue vaccines at the same visit.
- Recommend vaccination even when a child has a mild illness, such as a cold, diarrhea, or an ear infection.
- Record immunizations in the Washington State Immunization Information System.
- Pre-schedule 4th DTaP appointments when children get their 3rd DTaP, if possible.
- Contact parents to bring children in for due or overdue DTaP doses. Use the Immunization Information System or order free reminder/recall cards.
- Give the 3rd DTaP dose on time. Research shows that children who get the 3rd dose on time are more likely to get the 4th dose on time.
- Find out the 4th DTaP coverage rates at your practice and track them over time. Ask your local health department how they can help you do this.

Be part of the solution. Get involved!

Help Washington fight pertussis and increase 4th DTaP immunization rates:

- **Contact** your local health department (www.doh.wa.gov/localhealth) to find out about your practice's immunization coverage.
- **Visit** the Washington State Department of Health website (www.doh.wa.gov/) to:
  - Get more immunization information.
  - Explore immunization resources available to you and your patients.
- **Order** free materials by e-mail (immunematerials@doh.wa.gov), like:
  - Pertussis flyers.
  - Reminder/recall cards.
  - "Plain Talk About Childhood Immunization" booklet.
- **Join** the Immunization Action Coalition of Washington (www.immunizewa.org).

Follow the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommendations for DTaP vaccination:

1st DTaP	2nd DTaP	3rd DTaP	4th DTaP	5th DTaP
2 months	4 months	6 months	15–18 months*	4–6 years

** The 4th DTaP dose may be given as early as 12 months, if at least 6 months have passed since the 3rd DTaP dose was given.*

When you speak, parents listen. Make sure your patients don't miss any DTaP doses.

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Family Health Hotline
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www.ParentHelp123.org
Programs of WithinReach

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