



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Human Services

Public Health Division

Office of Family Health

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Date: April 29, 2008  
To: Public and Private Immunization Providers  
From: Mimi Luther, Vaccine Manager  
Re: Tdap Special Project Announcement

We are pleased to announce a special project for Oregon providers who wish to advance the causes of Pertussis prevention. Beginning immediately, we will supply Tdap vaccine at no cost for providers to use in immunizing the people of Oregon. The project will last approximately one year, according to funding capacity.



- *In the last several years, four babies in Oregon have died from Pertussis disease. With this project, we hope to prevent further disease and deaths.*
- *Beginning this September, a dose of Tdap vaccine will be required for most Oregon 7th graders. With this project, we hope to minimize the rush on Oregon providers, schools and local health departments.*
- *The most common sources of Pertussis in children are caregivers and loved ones: parents, grandparents, siblings, daycare workers, health professionals, and teachers often carry the disease but don't realize they are passing it on.*

### How can you help?

Oregon immunization providers already enrolled in the Vaccines for Children Program can participate. Other organizations/agencies (e.g. hospitals, obstetricians, internists) can also participate by working with local health departments and private providers. Screening for financial eligibility is not required.

All doses will be submitted to the registry with the eligibility code as "S", for Special Project.

Based on early outreach, here are some ideas Oregon's providers have shared:

- Provide vouchers to parents, caregivers, health care workers to receive their Tdap vaccine for a minimal administration fee through your local health department. Have vouchers available through hospitals, childbirth instructors, diaper service providers, thrift store owners, grocery stores, etc.
- Have a back to school immunization clinic at your local middle school's registration day or parent/teacher counseling days, offering Tdap vaccine to 6<sup>th</sup> graders and their families. Make sure every teacher and school staffer is protected.

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- Enlist your local pharmacies to help!
- Immunize every staff person in your office! Offer no-cost vaccine to every parent, grandparent, and caregiver in your practice – for an entire year!
- Involve community partners such as your coalition, the Oregon Nurses Association, Kiwanis, hospitals, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Little League, etc.
- Create a community effort to let no baby go unprotected, offering press releases, newsletter articles, speaking engagements.
- Get the Rotary and the local AARP chapters involved in a grandparent's initiative.
- Hold community-wide clinics throughout the year, targeting the underserved or exercising your emergency preparedness plans.
- Reach out to every parent of newborns in your community or practice. Use promotional materials we provide, or create your own.

#### What is required?

Data on each dose administered must be submitted to the Immunization Registry (ALERT). Existing methods of data submission include participation in the public health data system, IRIS; paper or electronic submission to ALERT. Additional methods will also be made available.

No charge can be made for the vaccine. A standard administration fee of no greater than \$15.19/dose can be charged. That fee must be waived if the parent/patient cannot afford it.

High standards of vaccine storage and handling are required. Vaccine spoiled or wasted will be charged to the provider.

At the end of the year, participating groups will be asked to submit a 1-2 page summary of activities. A template will be provided.

Please use the special Tdap Project order form, enclosed.

#### Need help?

For information about this project, please contact Bryan Goodin, the Tdap Project Coordinator ([bryan.goodin@state.or.us](mailto:bryan.goodin@state.or.us), 971-673-0472), your Immunization Program Health Educator, or contact Mimi Luther ([Lydia.m.luther@state.or.us](mailto:Lydia.m.luther@state.or.us), 971-673-0300).

Visit our website at [www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/imm/adults/Tdap.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/imm/adults/Tdap.shtml)  
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