



**Queensland
Government**
Queensland Health

Queensland Health Immunisation Program Communicable Diseases Branch

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Advice to General Practice Queensland

Free Funded dTpa Vaccine for New Parents

Queensland Health is funding a free pertussis vaccine program for new parents to commence 1 August 2009.

The program will provide free pertussis vaccine in a combined vaccine (adolescent/adult formulation diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis - dTpa) for birth parents, adoptive parents and foster parents of **children born on or after 1 May 2009**.

How will GPs be able to access dTpa for this program?

- In the second half of July Queensland Health will commence the first delivery of dTpa to all vaccine providers – there is no need to place an order for this first delivery
- Two weeks after the initial delivery is received providers will be to reorder dTpa (with a full stock count of all vaccines held) if more vaccine is required
- Monthly orders will then resume

GPs have been asked to advise eligible parents who attend their practice/clinic of the following:

- Queensland Health is providing free pertussis vaccine for a limited time;
- babies should be vaccinated on time; and
- to keep their baby away from anyone with a cough.

Vaccine Service Providers should encourage new parents to get their free vaccine as soon as possible.

For further information or advice, contact your local Population Health Unit.

Population Health Units			
Brisbane Northside	3624 1111	Mackay	4968 6611
Brisbane Southside	3000 9148	Redcliffe	3142 1800
Cairns	4050 3600	Mt Isa	4744 4846
Darling Downs	4631 9888	Central Qld	4920 6989
Gold Coast	5509 7222	Sunshine Coast	5409 6600
Wide Bay	4120 6000	Townsville	4753 9000

AUTHORISED & SIGNED

Dr Frank Beard
A/Senior Director
Communicable Diseases Branch
/ 7 / 2009

Dear Doctor/Vaccine Service Provider

Queensland Health is pleased to announce the introduction of a free pertussis vaccine program commencing 1 August 2009 for birth parents, adoptive parents and foster parents of **children born on or after 1 May 2009**.

The vaccine is administered as the adolescent/adult formulation diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis vaccine (dTpa).

How will you be able to access dTpa for this program?

- In the second half of July we will commence the first delivery of dTpa to all vaccine providers – you will not need to place an order for this first delivery.
- Two weeks after you receive your initial delivery you will be able to reorder dTpa (with a full stock count of all vaccines held) if you require further vaccine.
- Monthly orders will then resume.

You need to record these vaccinations on the enclosed data collection sheet and forward to the address provided.

You should advise all eligible parents who attend your practice/clinic of the following:

- Queensland Health is providing free pertussis vaccine for a limited time;
- babies should be vaccinated on time; and
- to keep their baby away from anyone with a cough.

Australia is currently experiencing a pertussis epidemic. This program aims to protect babies too young to be fully protected by pertussis vaccination. The program will be time limited.

Yours sincerely

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Dr Frank Beard
A/Senior Director
Communicable Diseases Branch
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