

# Health & Immunisation Management Services



Experienced, cost effective vaccination and health services

## Information Sheet – Tetanus Diphtheria Whooping Cough

Research shows that adolescents and adults account for more than half of the cases of whooping cough, a significant source of infection for young children.

Those in close contact can transmit whooping cough with infants like parents, grandparents, siblings, even childcare workers and healthcare workers. Infants under 6 months are at risk of serious complications.

The National Health and Medical Research Council recommend that adults and adolescents in contact with infants should be vaccinated. (Adolescents in Year 9 receive it free through the school based immunisation program).

Whooping cough is often misdiagnosed as “just a bad cough”. Whooping cough in children is often characterised by the “whoop” sound at the end of a coughing fit.

In infants, whooping cough can last 2 months or longer causing inner ear infections, long lasting bronchitis, pneumonia, fits and death.

While whooping cough in adults and adolescents generally isn't as severe as it is in infants it can still be debilitating. Symptoms in adults can include post cough vomiting, sleep disruption, urinary incontinence, pneumonia and fractured ribs. While rarely fatal it can result in significant disruption to social and working life.

### Dosage and Frequency

Vaccination is a booster only and currently can only be given as a booster.

### Possible Reaction to Vaccine

#### Common

- ❑ Pain and swelling at the injection site.
- ❑ Fever, malaise and headache occur occasionally. These reactions can commence a few hours after the vaccination and may last up to 2 days. The symptoms mimic the **vaccine is not a live vaccine and does not cause whooping cough**

#### Uncommon

- ❑ Immediate adverse events such as acute allergic reaction are a rare consequence of the vaccine. The allergy is usually due to a component of the vaccine manufacturing process such as egg protein.
- ❑ There have been cases of clients complaining of nausea

Paracetamol is recommended for the fever and painful vaccination site, associated with vaccination.