



Community & Family Health Services

P.O. Box 5000
Coupeville, WA 98239
www.islandcounty.net/health

Pertussis-Containing Vaccine and Adults over 64

- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis Vaccine or “Tdap” is indicated by the vaccine manufacturer for individuals ages 11-64 years.
- There are no safety and efficacy data for adults over 64 years.
- The FDA has not approved the vaccine for anyone older than age 64 years.
- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has not recommended off-label use of Tdap for adults over 64. However, there is no reason to believe that Tdap is any less safe for persons age 65 years and older than it is for younger adults. Clinicians may decide that the benefit of Tdap exceeds the hypothetical risk in these situations. (Immunization Action Coalition: http://www.immunize.org/askexperts/experts_per.asp#tdap)
- **Island County Public Health Nurses are not able to provide Tdap to adults over 64 years based on the manufacturer indication, FDA status, and ACIP recommendation for use of Tdap vaccine.**
- **Addendum:** Persons over 64 are of a generation that they quite probably had pertussis as a child, and actually having had the disease has generally proven to provide life-long immunity, quite unlike the vaccine for the disease.

Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Island County Public Health appreciates your attention to vaccine-preventable diseases and the protection of our communities.

Community and Family Health Services
PO Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239-5000 (410 Main Street)
From N. Whidbey 360.679.7351 From S. Whidbey 360.321.5111 x 7351
From Camano Island 360.629.4522 x 7351 FAX 360.679.7347