

# VACCINES FOR CHILDREN



Dallas County  
Health and Human Services

SPRING 2011 - NEWS LETTER



## ImmTrac Texas Immunization Registry

ImmTrac, the Texas immunization registry, is a secure, confidential registry that stores immunization records electronically in one centralized system. ImmTrac is available to Texas children younger than 18 years old, Texas first responders, and first responder family members 18 years of age and older. ImmTrac was created by the Texas Department of State Health Services as a result of the enactment of House Bill 3054 (75th Legislature) which required a statewide immunization registry be implemented by September 1, 1997. It is a free service offered by DSHS to families, health-care providers, schools and other entities. This valuable information comes from a variety of sources including private health-care providers, public health clinics;

Medicaid claims administrators, the Bureau of Vital Statistics (VSU), and Women, Infants and Children (WIC) clinics. Regardless of the number of sources, each client's immunization information is consolidated into one electronic record. To register a child for ImmTrac participation, you must obtain consent in writing from a parent or legal guardian. Consent is only required one time and is valid for lifetime. A parent may withdraw this consent at anytime.

ImmTrac contains over 73 million immunization records for more than 5.8 million Texas children younger than 18 years of age.

Some information contained in the registry is the child's name, date of birth, address, the name of the parent or guardian,

information on the shots given, and who gave them. Optional (but very helpful) information stored in ImmTrac is the child's Social Security number and mother's maiden name. This optional information helps prevent duplicate records from being created.

ImmTrac registry is also available to first responders, and first responders immediate family members 18 years of age and older. By registering for ImmTrac, first responders and their immediate family members will be able to have current and historical immunizations stored and consolidated into one central location. "Over 12,000 Texas first responders and their family members have joined the registry since 2007."

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### ImmTrac Current Statistics

89.7 million immunizations recorded  
6.43 million children in ImmTrac  
2.2 million children under the age of 6 years  
90.5% of parents consent for their newborn babies  
17,378 first responders or family members of first responders registered with ImmTrac  
8,700 active online user sites (physician offices, schools)  
223,000 immunization history reports generated per month (average)

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## ImmTrac

Continued from cover

### Why have an immunization registry?

Many children are over-immunized because parents cannot locate shot records. The immunization schedule is often confusing and parents often do not realize that their child is due for an immunization. Current Texas law requires all health-care providers to report all immunizations administered to children younger than 18 years old.

ImmTrac offers users access to an easy-to-use, Internet-based application that enables them to easily access patients' immunization histories. This means that children won't be under-vaccinated and more susceptible to diseases. Children won't be over-vaccinated either, so he or she does not have to go through any more discomfort than is necessary. ImmTrac can also print out shot records that can be given to parents/guardians. While using ImmTrac, immunization providers can remind parents to bring their child in for vaccinations that are due, or even notify them about vaccinations that are overdue. The CDC's National Vaccine Advisory Committee in October of 1994 concluded that; "An immunization information system is essential for reaching and sustaining coverage levels."

### What will ImmTrac do for providers of immunizations?

It will allow providers to search for immunization histories on new patients that have changed physicians or moved into a new community. One survey indicates that 39% of all children see more than one immunization provider by the time they are two years of age. ImmTrac will assist providers with lost records or those that are difficult to interpret. ImmTrac Registry aides in providing a method for doctors to send recall and reminder notices of pending or overdue immunizations. ImmTrac also enables schools and licensed child-care facilities to access students' immunization records required for enrollment. ImmTrac is an "opt in" registry, it offers an Immunization scheduler that generate recommendations for all age groups. The immunization scheduler includes recommendations for all consented ImmTrac clients, including pediatric and adolescent patients as well as first responders and adult family members of first responders.



### How can I get more information?

Call: 800.252.9152

E-mail: [ImmTrac@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:ImmTrac@dshs.state.tx.us)

Write to:

Texas Department of State Health Services

Immunization Branch – ImmTrac Group

MC 1946, PO Box 149347

Austin, TX 78714-9347

### Definition of First Responder

The Texas Health and Safety code defines

A "First responder" as:

any federal, state, local, or private personnel who may respond to a disaster, including:

- public health and public safety personnel;
- commissioned law enforcement personnel;
- fire protection personnel, including volunteer firefighters;
- emergency medical services personnel, including hospital emergency facility staff;
- a member of the National Guard;
- a member of the Texas State Guard; or
- any other worker who responds to a disaster in the worker's scope of employment; or
- any related personnel that provide support services during the prevention, response, and recovery phases of a disaster.

### Vaccine for Children Information and Resources

2011 Childhood and Adolescent Immunizations Recommended Schedules available for access

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/acip>

2010-2011 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Students Grades K-12

2010-2011 Texas Minimum State Vaccine Requirements for Child-Care Facilities

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school>

Texas Immunization Registry Update...

ImmTrac Lifetime Registry will become available soon in early 2011, visit

<http://www.ImmTrac.com> for the latest updates



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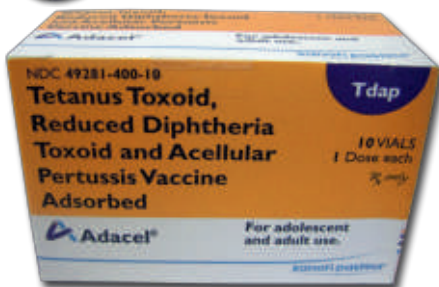
## Preventing Pertussis, or whooping cough

Pertussis is a serious disease that can cause permanent disability in infants, and even death.

Pertussis, or whooping cough, is an upper respiratory infection caused by the *Bordetella pertussis* or *Bordetella parapertussis* bacteria. It is a serious disease that can cause permanent disability in infants, and even death. Pertussis can affect people of any age. Before vaccines were widely available, the disease was most common in infants and young children. Now that most children are immunized before entering school, the higher percentage of cases is seen among adolescents and adults. Despite sustained high coverage for childhood pertussis vaccination, pertussis remains poorly controlled in the United States. The MMWR calculated a total of 16,858 pertussis cases and 12 infant deaths were reported in 2009 (1; CDC, unpublished data, 2009).



Tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis (Tdap) was recommended by Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in 2005, for adolescents and adults to improve immunity against pertussis. Tdap coverage is 56% among adolescents and <6% among adults (2,3).



VFC Supervisor, Tammara Scroggins, with school-aged client

### Vaccine Recommendations

For Infants and Children: In the US, the recommended pertussis vaccine for children is called DTaP. This is a safe and effective combination vaccine that protects children against three diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis. For maximum protection against pertussis, children need five DTaP shots. The first three doses are given at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. The fourth dose is given between 15 and 18 months of age, and a fifth dose is given when a child enters school, at 4-6 years of age. If a 7-10 year old is not up-to-date with DTaP vaccines, a dose of Tdap should be given before the 11-12 year old check up.

For Pre-teens and Adolescents: Vaccine protection for pertussis, tetanus, and diphtheria can fade with time. Pre-teens going to the doctor for their regular check-up at age 11 or 12 years should get a booster vaccine, called Tdap. Teens and young adults who didn't get a booster as a pre-teen should get one dose when they visit their health care provider.

For Adults: Adults who didn't get Tdap as a pre-teen or teen should get one dose of Tdap. Most pregnant women who were not previously vaccinated with Tdap should get one dose of Tdap postpartum before leaving the hospital or birthing center. Getting vaccinated with Tdap is especially important for families with and caregivers of new infants. Adults 65 years and older who have close contact with infants should get a dose of Tdap, according to the newest vaccine recommendations.

Getting vaccinated with Tdap is especially important for families with and caregivers of new infants.

The best way to prevent pertussis is to get vaccinated!

### Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 Through 6 Years - United States - 2011

For those who fall behind or start late, see the catch-up schedule

Vaccine	Age	Birth	1 month	2 months	4 months	6 months	12 months	15 months	18 months	19-23 months	2-3 years	4-6 years
Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis <sup>1</sup>				DTaP	DTaP	DTaP		DTaP				DTaP

<sup>1</sup> Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP). (Minimum age: 6 weeks)

Range of recommended ages for all children

### Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 7 Through 18 Years - United States - 2011

For those who fall behind or start late, see the catch-up schedule

Vaccine	Age	7-10 years	11-12 years	13-18 years
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis <sup>1</sup>			Tdap	Tdap

<sup>1</sup> Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap). (Minimum age: 10 years for Boostrix and 11 years for Adacel)

Range of recommended ages for all children

Range of recommended ages for catch-up immunization

ACIP has approved the following additional recommendations for the use of Tdap:

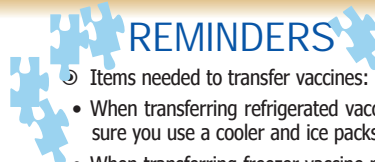
- 1) use of Tdap regardless of interval since the last tetanus- or diphtheria-toxoid containing vaccine.
- 2) use of Tdap in undervaccinated children aged 7 through 10 years and
- 3) use of Tdap in certain adults aged 65 years and older.

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## REMINDERS

### ● Reports are due by the 5th of each month

- Options of sending in Monthly Reports.
  - Fax reports to (214) 819-2019
  - Email your report to your contact person
  - Mail your report in to 2377 N. Stemmons Fwy Suite 500 Dallas, TX 75207
- Please submit on time so orders will not be delayed.
- Please input your inventory into EVI monthly, and always provide a statement on the explanation portion of your C-33, if you WILL or WILL NOT be placing an order.

### ● Vaccine Loss Reports: (5 or more of the same expired or ruined vaccine)

- A Vaccine Lost Report should be attached and submitted with your C-33 report, only the physicians signature that signed the initial Enrollment form, from your last Audit from DSHS will be Valid
- NO SIGNATURE STAMPS ALLOWED
- VLR's not received will result in an order not being filled.

### ● Transferring of vaccines

- Please contact your DCHHS VFC representative, and inform them of any transfers between clinics
- Make sure that when transferring any vaccines, that they are documented on the C-33 form, in the proper column.
- Both parties should count vaccines and agree on the amount being transferred  
\*With Flu vaccines state if it is .25mL or .5mL on the transfer form.

### ● Items needed to transfer vaccines:

- When transferring refrigerated vaccine make sure you use a cooler and ice packs or ice.
- When transferring freezer vaccine make sure you use a cooler with DRY ICE.

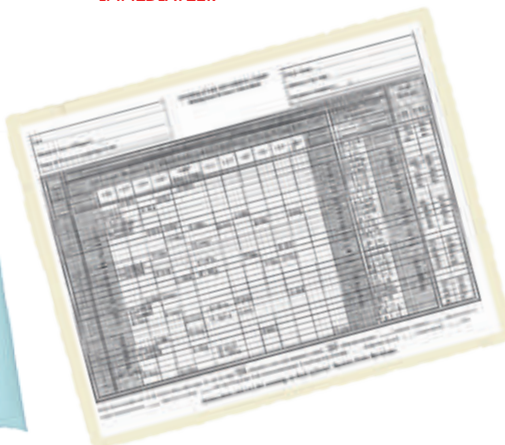
Dry Ice Can Be Purchased At: Emergency Ice (214)747-6746

- Please use the transfer form found at the following website,

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/tvfc/default.shtm>

Also submit this form with your report. Both parties should sign Transfer Form

- If your clinic has an out of range temperature in the refrigerator or freezer, Contact your VFC Representative IMMEDIATELY.



- Out of Range temperatures compromise the viability of the vaccine
- Temperatures should be documented twice daily for the refrigerator and freezer, with initials for each time i.e. Refrigerator temps should be recorded in times ( i.e. 8am, 5pm) and Freezer temps should be recorded as the actual temperature on the thermometer (0, +1).

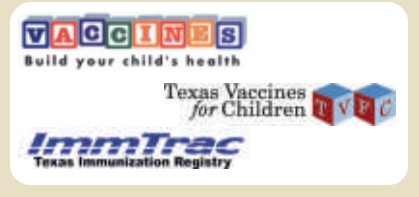
## Free online courses



The DSHS Immunization Branch has developed the Texas Vaccine Education Online to provide short online courses on topics related to vaccines, including Texas Vaccines for Children (TVFC), ImmTrac, vaccine-preventable diseases, vaccine administration, and strategies to raise coverage levels. Each course is designed for a specific audience, such as health care providers, school personnel, parents, and local health departments.

These courses are designed for professionals who are involved in delivering vaccines and vaccine-related programs. Upon successful completion of each course, participants will receive a Certificate of Completion. Enroll in Texas Vaccine Education Online to register for a course.

<http://www.vaccineeducationonline.org>



## Vaccine for Children Program

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