



July 2011

Community and Health Services Department



Td Vaccine

(Tetanus and Diphtheria Vaccine)

Td vaccine protects against tetanus and diphtheria

- Given to adults by injection in the upper arm
- Is needed once every 10 years as a booster

Mild side effects may occur, such as:

- Redness, swelling or discomfort at the injection site
 - Slight fever, swollen or sore joints, chills
- Severe side effects are rare.

People should delay or avoid this immunization if they:

- Have a fever or are fighting a recent infection
- Have an allergy to aluminum or formaldehyde
- Are in the first trimester of pregnancy

Tetanus

- Is also known as lockjaw
- Causes painful, prolonged muscle spasms of the jaw, neck, arms, leg and stomach
- Can lead to broken bones, suffocation, or death
- Is caused by tetanus bacteria that enter the body through a cut or wound in the skin. These bacteria are found in the environment, usually in soil, dust or manure

Diphtheria

- Mainly affects the nose and throat area
- Causes sore throat, fever, loss of appetite
- Causes a thick, grey membrane to form in the throat, and makes the underlying tissue in the neck become red, swollen and painful
- Can lead to breathing problems, airway blockage, difficulty swallowing, pneumonia, brain damage or death
- Spreads easily from person to person through droplets expelled from the mouth, nose and throat of an infected person (e.g., through talking, coughing or sneezing)

Information sheet

For further information, please call:

York Region Health Connection 1-800-361-5653

TTY 1-866-252-9933 or visit www.york.ca