



Tetanus and adult diphtheria (Td)

Frequently Asked Question (FAQs)

What is Td vaccine?

ANS. Tetanus and adult diphtheria (Td) vaccine is a combination of tetanus and diphtheria with lower concentration of diphtheria antigen (d) as recommended for older children and adults.

What is the need for the replacement of TT with Td vaccine in the Universal Immunization Program?

ANS. As per the lab supported vaccine preventable diseases surveillance data in India, majority of the cases of Diphtheria are occurring in age group 5 years and above (77% and 69% respectively in 2017 and 2018) mostly in unvaccinated (~ 2/3rd). In 2016 diphtheria outbreak in Kerala, nearly 79% cases occurred in >10 years age group. Since 1999, there have been more than 80% reduction in tetanus mortality, however diphtheria outbreaks are increasing which reflect gaps in diphtheria protection.

It is now well established that immunity to diphtheria subsides following the primary series of DTP infant immunization and that booster doses of diphtheria toxoid containing vaccines are needed for continued protection

Why Td vaccine needed for pregnant women when already TT vaccine is administered?

ANS. The use of Td rather TT is recommended during pregnancy to protect against maternal and neonatal tetanus & diphtheria during prenatal care. Vaccination during pregnancy also serves to boost immunity and increase the duration of protection in those pregnant women who had not received the full set of recommended booster doses. Td also boost decreasing diphtheria immunity in addition to assuring tetanus protection, and help to curtail diphtheria outbreaks.

What is the presentations of Td vaccine?

ANS. The table below illustrates the details of Td vaccine that will be used under Universal Immunization Program (UIP):-

Vaccine	Td
Presentation	10 dose Vial
Shelf Life	24-36 Months

Is Td a new vaccine?

ANS. Td is not a new vaccine. 133 countries are using Td vaccine in the national immunization schedule.

What is the sensitivity, storage procedure & handling process, wastage rate for Td vaccine?

- ANS.**
- » Td is a freeze sensitive vaccine. No reconstitution required for Td vaccine.
 - » Td vaccine to be stored between +2 to +8 degree Celsius in ILR.
 - » Shake test is applicable to Td vaccine, to check freezing of Td vaccine. If you find any frozen vial of Td vaccine in ILR do not use the vial.
 - » The wastage rate for Td vaccine is 10 %.

Is open vial policy applicable to Td vaccine?

ANS. Open vial policy is applicable to Td vaccine.

What is the dose, route & site of administration for Td vaccine?

ANS.	Dose	0.5 ml
	Route	Intramuscular
	Site of Administration	Upper Arm

Will there be an additional cold chain storage capacity requirement?

ANS. There will not be any requirement for additional cold chain space to accommodate Td vaccine as same vial sizes (10 dose vials) are used to replace existing TT vaccine.

Will the replacement of TT with Td vaccine impact the immunization schedule?

ANS. The existing UIP schedule for TT will be followed for Td as well.

What should be done with the remaining balance of TT vaccine in the country?

ANS. If remaining stock of TT vaccine still meets all validity requirements, it should to be used first and then begin using Td vaccine. There is no need to discard or recall stocks of available TT vaccine

Where to report Td vaccine in MCP cards, HMIS & MCTS tool, Tally Sheets and Due lists?

ANS. Revision of all recording and reporting formats (MCP card, due list, tally sheets, RCH registers, microplans, AEFI formats etc.) replacing TT with Td is to be done.

If the same has been revised to include Td doses, it should be recorded at appropriate columns (at 10 years & 16 years for children and Td-1, Td-2 and Td-B for pregnant women). If not done: Td doses should be recorded at the place of TT doses.

The replacement of TT with Td vaccine may need a clear communication strategy and training of ANMs. How can this be handled?

ANS. The replacement of TT with Td vaccine does not require a wide scale communication strategy as its usage and schedule is same as that of TT. The replacement will simply be an exchange of one vaccine product for another in the programme, with no change in targets population or schedule. Therefore, a simple orientation of medical officers, programme managers and ANMs will be sufficient.

Is it safe to use Td vaccine during pregnancy?

ANS. Both tetanus and diphtheria toxoid containing vaccines are safe for use in pregnancy. These vaccines have been used for decades and there is no evidence of adverse outcomes or risk to the fetus from the vaccination during pregnancy. However, local reactions at the site of injection may occur.

Do Td vaccine require different measures for AEFI surveillance than already existing?

ANS. There is always need for good AEFI monitoring for all vaccines. AEFI surveillance to be done for all vaccines under UIP. This implies for Td vaccine as well.

If a woman or adolescent has received TT vaccine in the past, can Td be used for the next dose(s)? What will be the validity of previous TT doses? Should I repeat previous doses?

ANS. Yes, Td vaccine can be given as a subsequent dose following TT, and all previous TT doses will remain valid. There is no need to re-start the series.