

Dear Doctor/Vaccine Service Provider

Queensland Health is pleased to announce the introduction of a free pertussis vaccine program commencing 1 August 2009 for birth parents, adoptive parents and foster parents of **children born on or after 1 May 2009**.

The vaccine is administered as the adolescent/adult formulation diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis vaccine (dTpa).

**How will you be able to access dTpa for this program?**

- In the second half of July we will commence the first delivery of dTpa to all vaccine providers – you will not need to place an order for this first delivery.
- Two weeks after you receive your initial delivery you will be able to reorder dTpa (with a full stock count of all vaccines held) if you require further vaccine.
- Monthly orders will then resume.

You need to record these vaccinations on the enclosed data collection sheet and forward to the address provided.

You should advise all eligible parents who attend your practice/clinic of the following:

- Queensland Health is providing free pertussis vaccine for a limited time;
- babies should be vaccinated on time; and
- to keep their baby away from anyone with a cough.

Australia is currently experiencing a pertussis epidemic. This program aims to protect babies too young to be fully protected by pertussis vaccination. The program will be time limited.

Yours sincerely

**AUTHORISED & SIGNED**

Dr Frank Beard  
**A/Senior Director**  
**Communicable Diseases Branch**  
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**Office**  
Queensland Health  
Communicable Diseases Branch  
Level 1, 15 Butterfield Street,  
HERSTON QLD 4006

**Postal**  
Queensland Health  
Communicable Diseases Branch  
PO Box 2368  
FORTITUDE VALLEY BC 4006

**Phone**  
(07) 3328 9888

**Fax**  
(07) 3328 9720