



**DIPHTHERIA AND
TETANUS VACCINE
FACT SHEET FOR
HEALTH CARE WORKERS
IN BOTSWANA**



FS 739935



Promoting access to safe medicines

1. Indication

The diphtheria and tetanus vaccine provides protection against:

- Diphtheria: a bacterial infection caused by *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, which can lead to throat swelling, breathing difficulties, heart problems, and death.
- Tetanus (lockjaw): caused by *Clostridium tetani*, leading to painful muscle stiffness and spasms, difficulty breathing, and high risk of death.

It is used for routine childhood immunisation, booster doses, and catch-up vaccination in unvaccinated individuals.

2. Administration

Age	Dose
18 months	Dt- fourth dose after receiving three Pentavalent vaccine doses
Standard 1 (if <7 years use Dt), (if >7years use Td)	(Dt)- fifth dose after receiving three Pentavalent vaccine doses
Standard 7	Td booster
Woman of childbearing age	
First contact	Tetanus diphtheria (Td) 1
1 month after the 1 st dose	Tetanus diphtheria (Td) 2
2 months after the 2 nd dose	Tetanus diphtheria (Td) 3
1 year after the 3 rd dose	Tetanus diphtheria (Td) 4
1 year after the 4 th dose	Tetanus diphtheria (Td) 5

Route of administration:

- Intramuscular injection only.
- Infants (<12 months): anterolateral thigh.
- Children ≥12 months and adults: deltoid muscle of the upper arm.
- Do not administer intravenously, intradermally, or subcutaneously.

Important: Always consult the vaccine information leaflet included with the product for detailed preparation and administration instructions.

3. Warnings and Precautions

- Local reactions (pain, redness, swelling) are common, especially after booster doses.
- Postpone vaccination in cases of moderate or severe acute illness until recovery.
- Neurological conditions: Use caution in individuals with a history of Guillain-Barré syndrome or brachial neuritis.

4. Contraindications

Do not administer the vaccine to individuals with:

- Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to any component (including aluminum salts or formaldehyde).
- Severe acute illness (vaccination should be delayed until recovery).

5. Adverse Reactions

Common side effects:

- Pain, redness, or swelling at injection site
- Mild fever
- Fatigue, headache, or muscle aches
- Irritability or fussiness in young children

Less common side effects:

- Large local swelling, especially after multiple boosters
- Drowsiness, loss of appetite

Serious but rare adverse events:

- Severe allergic reactions (anaphylaxis)
- Neurological conditions such as Guillain-Barré syndrome or brachial neuritis (extremely rare)

6. Adverse Event Reporting in Botswana:

Health care workers are encouraged to report any suspected adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) to BoMRA. Reporting helps monitor vaccine safety and protect public health. Even if you are uncertain whether the vaccine caused the reaction, reporting ensures potential concerns are identified early.

Steps to report an AEFI:

1. Scan the QR code provided
2. Accept the terms and conditions
3. Complete the reporting form with all available information
4. Submit the form

**Or contact:**

Email: aefi@bomra.co.bw

Telephone: 3731727

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