DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, acellular Pertussis)

**Contraindications:**
- Severe allergic reaction to a prior dose or to any vaccine component
- Encephalopathy, not due to another identifiable cause, within 7 days of receiving a previous dose of DTP/DTaP

A severe allergic reaction is one that is mediated by IgE, occurs within minutes or hours of the administration of vaccine, and requires medical attention. Examples of severe allergic reactions are generalized urticaria (hives), swelling of the mouth and throat, difficulty breathing, wheezing, hypotension, or shock.

**Precautions:**
- Moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever (Minor illness is not a reason to postpone vaccination)
- Proven or suspected underlying neurologic condition (unstable or evolving)
- Fever of $\geq 105^\circ$ F ($40.5^\circ$ C) within 48 hours after vaccination with a prior dose of DTP/DTaP (unexplained by another cause)
- Collapse or shock-like state (hypotonic-hyporesponsive episode) within 48 hours of receiving a prior dose of DTP/DTaP
- Convulsions with or without fever within 72 hours of receiving a prior dose (Note: Giving acetaminophen before administering DTaP and every 4 hours for 24 hours after should be considered for children with a person or family history of convulsions in siblings or parents)
- Persistent, inconsolable crying lasting three or more hours within 48 hours of receiving a prior dose of DTP/DTaP
- Guillian-Barre Syndrome within 6 weeks of DTP/DTaP

There is no evidence that a concurrent acute illness reduces vaccine efficacy or increases vaccine adverse events. The concern is that an adverse event (particularly fever) following vaccination could complicate the management of a severely ill person.

In general, the events or conditions listed as precautions, although not contraindications, should be carefully reviewed. When these conditions are present, the individual child’s disease risk should be carefully assessed. In situations when the benefit outweighs the risk (e.g., community outbreak or foreign travel), vaccination should be considered.

Whether and when to administer DTaP to children with proven or suspected underlying neurologic disorders should be decided on an individual basis.

**Not Contraindications:**
- Temperature of <40.5° ($105^\circ$ F) following a previous dose of DTP/DTaP
- Family history of convulsions (Note: Giving acetaminophen before administering DTaP and every 4 hours for 24 hours after should be considered for children with a person or family history of convulsions in siblings or parents)
- Family history of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Family history of an adverse event following DTP/DTaP administration
The sources for these contraindications and precautions are:
Summary of Rules for Childhood and Adol. Immunization, Immunization Action Coalition, March 2004
Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases
Appendix A - Contraindications and Precautions to Routine Childhood Vaccinations
8th Edition (January 2004), Dept. of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention