

# OPTIMIZATION OF TETANUS VACCINATIONS

## at the Holley Clinic in Quesnel

**Location:** Holley Clinic, Quesnel BC

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**Date:** September 2021

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### ▶ AIM STATEMENT:

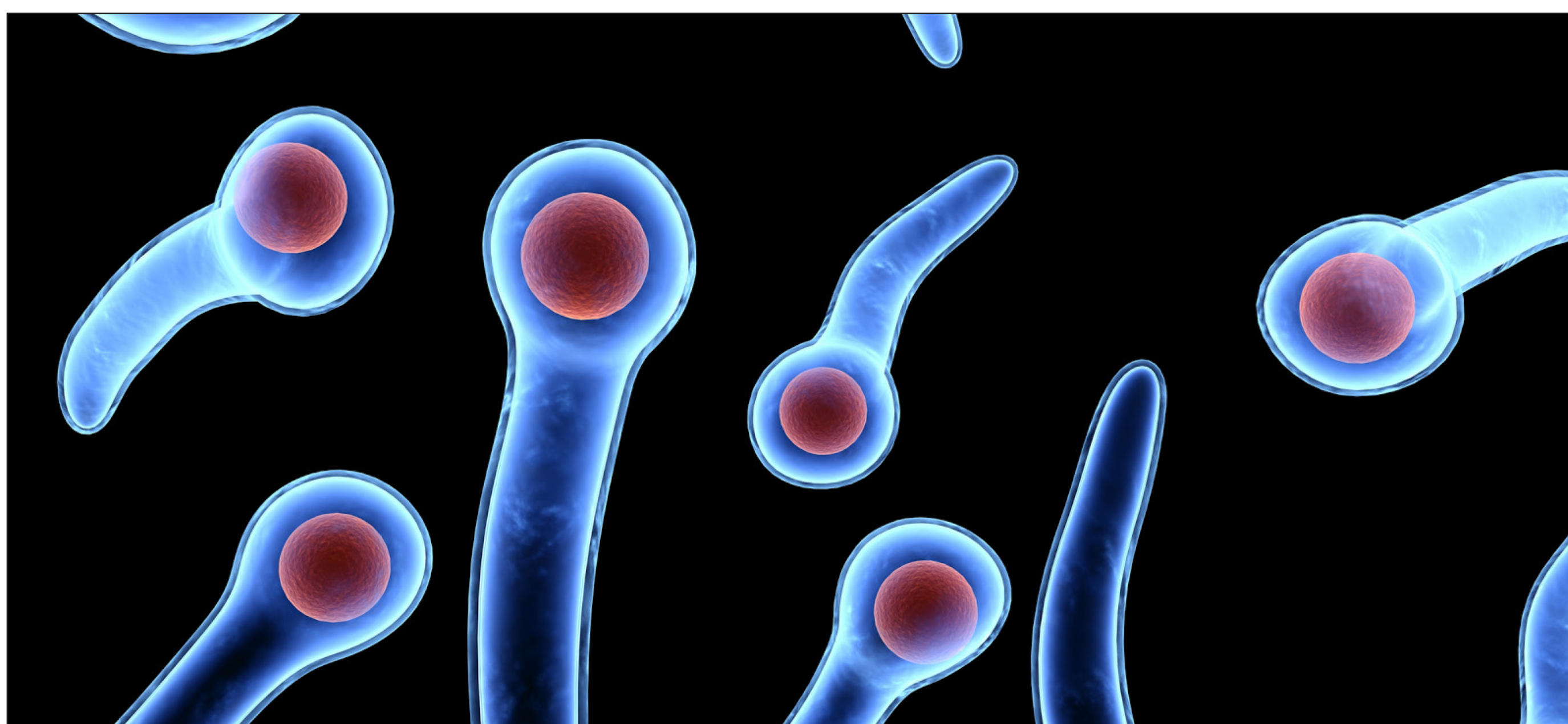
Increase up to date Td (tetanus diphtheria) vaccinations by >20% in adult patients by September 2021 at Holley Clinic.

### ▶ BACKGROUND:

- The Td vaccine is the best way to protect against tetanus and diphtheria, which are serious and sometimes fatal diseases.
- BCCDC recommends that adults receive a free Td booster shot every 10 years.
- Patients are often unaware of the availability or recommended booster intervals for the vaccine; many adult patients are overdue for their booster.
- By collecting information on Td vaccine history, offering patients a booster, and updating vaccine history in the EMR (electronic medical record) while patients are at the clinic for an unrelated reason, the team can optimize vaccination rates and EMR utilization.

### ▶ PROBLEM STATEMENT:

- Majority of adult patients did not have an up to date Td vaccination
- Majority of patients did not have any vaccination history in their EMR (Med Access).



Clostridium tetani bacteria, the causative agent of tetanus.

### ▶ CHANGE IDEAS:

Adult patients are provided a Td vaccine history form to fill out in waiting room. The form also includes facts about the Td vaccine to inform the patient of benefits, risks, and side effects. If the patient is due for a booster, or their vaccine status is unknown, they are provided an opportunity to get a Td booster shot if they choose. Their vaccine status is then updated in the EMR. The patient also is able to take home the fact sheet to share with family members that also may benefit from a Td booster.

### ▶ TD HISTORY FORM

Patient name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

**HOLLEY CLINIC MED HISTORY REVIEW TETANUS AND DIPHTHERIA VACCINE**

Is your tetanus and diphtheria vaccine up to date (within past 10 years)? Yes / No / Unknown

If Yes – provide vaccination date: \_\_\_\_\_

If No or Unknown, do you want your tetanus and diphtheria vaccine updated? Yes/ No

If you chose yes to update vaccine – you will be contacted for an appointment

*Tear off along dotted line; top section to reception; patient keeps bottom section*

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**Tetanus and Diphtheria (Td) Vaccine**

- This vaccine is given as a booster dose to adults who were immunized against tetanus and diphtheria when they were younger. A booster dose of this vaccine is recommended every 10 years.
- Adults who have not been immunized or do not have a record of prior immunization should also get the vaccine.
- This vaccine may also be given to people with serious cuts or deep wounds if their last tetanus vaccine was given more than 5 years ago.

If you have a serious cut or wound, including punctures, bites, burns, or scrapes, please see your health care provider immediately for treatment. This is especially important if the wound is dirty.

**What are the benefits of the tetanus vaccine?**

Vaccination is the best way to protect against tetanus, a serious disease that sometimes causes death. Tetanus is different from other vaccine-preventable diseases because it does not spread from person to person. Any person not vaccinated against tetanus is at risk.

**What are the side effects?**

Vaccines are very safe. It is much safer to get the vaccine than it is to get tetanus.

Many people have no side effects from these vaccines. For those that do, side effects are usually mild and last 1 to 2 days (see a list of common side effects for each vaccine below). Serious side effects are very rare.

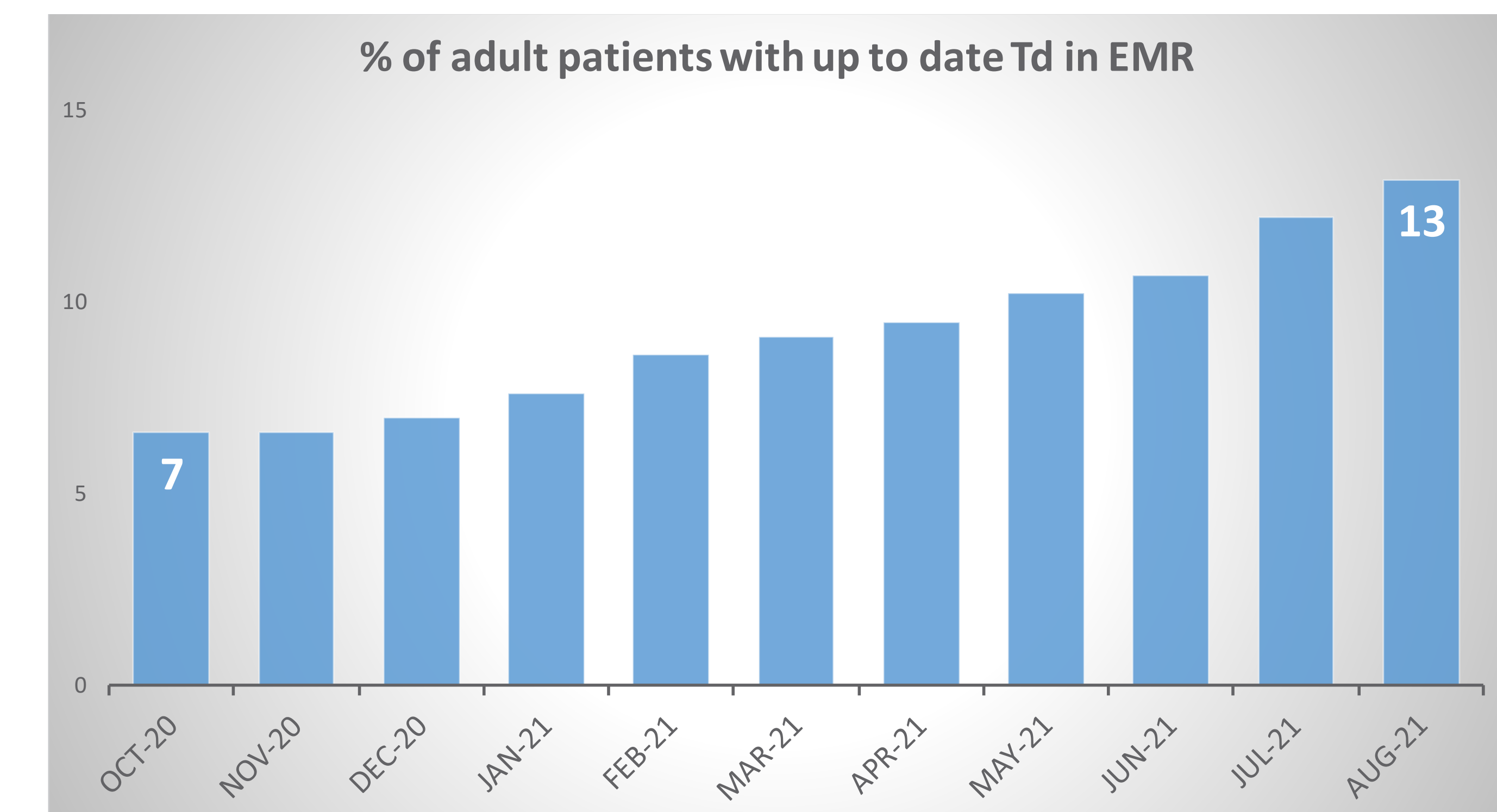
It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because there is a very rare chance, between one in 100,000 and one in a million, of a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. Should this reaction occur, your health care provider is prepared to treat it. Emergency treatment includes injection of epinephrine (adrenaline) and transfer by ambulance to the nearest emergency department. If symptoms develop after you leave the clinic, call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number.

It is important to always report serious or unexpected reactions to your immunizing health care provider.

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### ▶ RESULTS:

By the end of August 2021, there was a 6% increase in adult patients having an up to date Td vaccination. The decrease in in-person appointments due to COVID impacted the projects ability to meet its goals within the given timeframe. Despite being lower than the aim, the increase is still a success, and it is anticipated the growth will continue due to the new process. By September 2021, the process was integrated into the normal workflows of the clinic. One of the PDSA cycles resulted in adding the COVID-19 vaccine to the form, which provided vaccine-hesitant patients an opportunity to discuss their concerns, and were supported in acquiring their COVID-19 vaccines in the community.



### ▶ NEXT STEPS/SUSTAINING GAINS:

- The Td history is now an established process – clinic staff will continue this process to increase Td vaccination rates in the future.
- Some patients are now using the electronic kiosk, eliminating paper.
- Potential to add other vaccines, and conversations around screening, to the history form in the future.
- Develop a process to update Td vaccine status in the EMR from reports on patients that receive an urgent Td vaccine in the emergency room.

### ▶ PATIENT/CUSTOMER:

Dr. McDonald's adult patients at the Holley Clinic