

DATE: November 29, 2010
TO: Medical Providers
FROM: Karen Furst, MD, MPH, Health Officer

*Please distribute to all
providers & other relevant
staff in your practice.*

NEW SCHOOL VACCINE MANDATE

Tdap* Booster Now Required for Grades 7-12

On September 29, 2010, a new law was passed (AB 354) that changed California immunization requirements for students entering 7th–12th grades in public and private schools.

- **All students entering 7th–12th grades in the coming school year (2011– 2012) must have proof of a Tdap booster shot. This means that ALL current 6th–11th graders must get up to date now.**
- **Schools will turn away students who are not up to date beginning July 1, 2011.**

The coming school year (2011–2012) is a catch up year to get all 7th–12th graders up to date on their Tdap booster. Then beginning with the next (2012–2013) and future school years, only students entering the 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap booster to start school.

It is important that you begin now to call in children and adolescents in your practice who are 10 years and older for their Tdap booster (if they have not yet received it). Getting them up to date now will protect against pertussis, and ensure that they will not be excluded from school in the coming year.

For questions on ordering Tdap vaccine, please call the San Joaquin County Public Health Services Immunization Program at (209) 468-3481.

Please see the attached FAQ for more information about the school mandate or go to www.getimmunizedca.org.

The New Tdap* Booster Requirement for 7th–12th Graders *Frequently Asked Questions for Providers*

What vaccine will be accepted to meet this new school requirement?

Only a Tdap vaccine will allow the student to meet the new school requirement. Other tetanus vaccines (like DTap, DT and Td) do not fulfill the new requirement.

Why was the Tdap requirement added?

This new immunization requirement is intended to help reduce the spread of pertussis disease among California's youth. In recent years, California has seen an increase in pertussis cases. In 2010, California experienced the most reported cases in over 60 years. Most children are fully protected prior to entering kindergarten because of the DTaP vaccine. However, immunity wears off making adolescents vulnerable to pertussis.

Who should get vaccinated with Tdap?

- All adolescents 10 years and older who have not received a Tdap booster should get one now.
- Children 7–9 years old who were not current on DTaP by age 7 should get a Tdap booster.
- Students will meet the new school requirement if they have proof of a Tdap booster given on or after their 7th birthday.

What if a student recently received a Tetanus (Td) vaccine?

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) state that no minimum interval is necessary between the last dose of Td and the Tdap booster.

What if a student does not have proof of a Tdap booster shot before school starts?

Schools will exclude incoming 7th–12th graders who do not have proof of a Tdap booster.

What if a student has had pertussis disease recently or in the past?

The student will still need a Tdap booster to enter school. Immunity developed after pertussis disease wears off, leaving students vulnerable to getting sick again.

What if a student has a medical contraindication to the Tdap vaccine?

California School Immunization Law allows physicians of children to provide medical exemptions (with a written statement) if the immunization is not indicated for the student.

Where can I go for more information?

For more information on the mandate, go to www.getimmunizedca.org.

How can I order Tdap vaccine?

The two currently licensed Tdap vaccines are Adacel® (Sanofi Pasteur) and Boostrix® (GSK). If you have questions about ordering, please call the San Joaquin County Public Health Services Immunization Program at (209) 468-3481.