

County of Santa Clara
Public Health Department



Health Officer
976 Lenzen Avenue, 2nd Floor
San José, CA 95126

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 11, 2011

TO: Pediatricians
Family Practice Physicians

FROM: Marty Fenstersheib, MD, MPH *mf*
Health Officer

RE: **New law requiring Tdap for all students entering 7th – 12th grade**

Background

Effective July 1, 2011, a new state law, AB 354, will mandate that all California students entering the 7th through the 12th grades show proof of immunization against pertussis before they can start school. The requirement applies to all public and private schools. Schools in Santa Clara County will begin urging parents to send their children to their medical provider for their Tdap booster (rather than at a stand-alone immunization clinic). This will enable many more children to have a comprehensive adolescent health visit. I am writing to ensure you will be prepared to see an influx of adolescents in your practice between now and the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year.

What is the new Tdap requirement for 7th – 12th graders?

- **For school year 2011-2012, all students entering, advancing, transferring into 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grades will need proof of a Tdap booster before entry into school in the fall.**
- **For school year 2012-2013, and all future school years, all students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap immunization.**

What if a child received a Tdap booster shot before their 10th birthday?

Children who received a dose of Tdap on or after their 7th birthday will be considered to have met the new school requirement. However, the California Department of Public Health recommends that children receive Tdap on or after their 10th birthday to provide better protection throughout their adolescent years.

What can schools accept as proof of immunization?

Any immunization record ('yellow card,' CAIR record, computer printout, immigration record etc.) that includes the following information is acceptable:

- Student's name
- Date of birth
- Vaccine name or abbreviation
- Date vaccine administered
- Name (written or stamp) of the clinic, office, or doctor administering the vaccine.

Is Tdap required for a student if ill with whooping cough recently or in the past?

Yes. Past illness with pertussis is not an exemption to the law. Tdap immunization is typically recommended even for those who have had pertussis.

How long do students have to wait after their last tetanus shot before getting their required dose of Tdap?

According to state and national recommendations, the dose of Tdap required for the school law may be given at any time after the last tetanus shot.

What can my office do to prepare?

We recommend that you estimate the number of patients in your practice who will be entering the 7th through 12th grades in the fall. Ensure that those patients are contacted to come for an adolescent health visit. You may need to have a larger supply of Tdap, as well as other vaccines, needed for the adolescent health visits.

Resources and more information

For more information, visit <http://shotsforschool.org/providerinfo.html>, or <http://www.eziz.org/> or the California Department of Public Health www.cdph.ca.gov.

On February 15th from 12 – 1pm, the California Department of Public Health will be hosting a webcast entitled "Shots for School: Clinicians' Role in CA New Tdap Requirement for 7th - 12th Graders." For more information and to register for the webcast, go to: <http://www.uctv.tv/CApertussis/>.

If you have further questions, please call the Disease Prevention and Control Program at 408-885-4214 and ask to speak with a public health nurse.