

Tdap School Requirement Frequently Asked Questions

Children attending Grades 6 or 7, who are 11 years old, and had a vaccine containing tetanus **within** the 5-year recommended interval, are considered ‘*conditional*.’

This student’s immunization status is ‘*conditional*’ until he or she receives a Tdap vaccine, at which time the immunization status is ‘*complete*.’

This student’s immunization status becomes ‘*out of compliance*’ 30 days after 5 years from the date of the last tetanus-containing vaccine.

What is Tdap?

Tdap is a vaccine that can protect teens and adults against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). There are two different Tdap vaccines:

Vaccine	Who is the vaccine licensed for?
Boostrix	10–18 year-olds
Adacel	11–64 year-olds

Who should get Tdap?

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends Tdap for:

- Children ages 11 and 12 years.
- Adults up to age 65. *Replace 1 tetanus booster (Td) with 1 dose of Tdap.*
- Adults who care for or have contact with infants, such as:
 - Postpartum parents.
 - Grandparents.
 - Child care providers.
 - Health care workers.

What is the Tdap school requirement?

Children who are attending Grades 6 and 7, who are at least 11 years old, are required to show proof of Tdap vaccination if it has been 5 years since receiving a tetanus-containing vaccine (DTaP, DT, or Td).

How will the Tdap requirement be implemented?

Each school year, from 2007–13, the Tdap requirement will expand to include an additional grade. For example, Tdap will be required for students attending Grades 6, 7, and 8 in 2009–10. The requirement will continue to expand until 2013, when it will include students attending Grades 6 through 12.

What kind of documentation is acceptable?

The Department of Health-approved Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) form (including CIS forms generated from the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry) is acceptable if it is completed with parent/guardian signature and:

- Date of vaccination, or
- Medical, religious, or personal exemption.

What if a student received a tetanus-containing vaccine less than 5 years ago?

This student is considered ‘*conditional*.’ The requirement applies to students in Grades 6 and 7 who received their last tetanus-containing vaccine 5 or more years ago.

What if you don’t know whether a student had a Td vaccine since their school entry booster (DTaP)?

Accept the school entry booster as the student’s last tetanus-containing vaccine unless the parent or the CHILD Profile Immunization Registry lists a more recent Td vaccination.

What if a student is given Tdap two years after the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine?

The student is considered complete. Tdap given 2–5 years since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine is considered valid.

What if a student entering Grade 6 is 10 years-old?

This student is considered complete. The requirement applies to students in Grades 6 and 7 who are at least 11 years old.

What if Tdap is given to a 10 year-old student?

This dose of Tdap is valid if the provider gave the child Boostrix. The dose is valid even though the ACIP recommendation and the school requirement are for children ages 11-12 years.

Should students be ‘tracked’ throughout the school year to make sure they get Tdap after becoming eligible?

The Department of Health (DOH) does not require schools to track students throughout the school year if they have a valid tetanus-containing vaccination on admission to school. However, DOH encourages schools to track students that have incomplete immunizations. Students are allowed 30 days after their 11th birthday or 5 years since their last tetanus-containing vaccine to get Tdap.

Resources

Washington State Department of Health

☎ 1-866-397-0337

🔗 www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/schools/vaccine.htm

This is a direct link to the School & Child Care Vaccine Requirements page.