



Pat Quinn, Governor
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers, Local Health Departments, IDPH
Regional Offices

FROM: William Moran, Section Chief
Immunization Program

DATE: March 22, 2013

SUBJECT: New Tdap School Requirement 2013-14 school year

This memo is to inform providers that the Illinois Department of Public Health amended the Child Health Examination Code Part 6651 to require students in the sixth through twelfth grades to show proof of recent pertussis vaccination. The revised rule requires that all students entering, advancing, or transferring into 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grades show proof of receiving one dose of Tdap vaccine (defined as tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) regardless of the interval since the last DTaP, DT or Td dose.

The revised rules align the vaccination requirement with the existing physical examination requirements for students entering 6th grade and ensures that older students receive needed “catch up” vaccinations to reduce the risk of acquiring pertussis. This is particularly important as the increase in pertussis cases among school-aged children and adolescents, which began in 2010, has continued throughout 2012. Vaccination of children and adolescents has proved effective in reducing the spread of pertussis within communities.

Healthcare providers should start now and immunize their patients at the earliest opportunity to meet this school requirement. For more information on this requirement, contact the Immunization Section at 217-785-1455 and see attached Tdap Checklist.



6th Through 12th Grade Tdap Requirement: Provider Checklist

All children entering 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade in Illinois need proof of receipt of the Tdap vaccine for the 2013-2014 school year.

Protect your patients from pertussis!

Start now and immunize at the earliest opportunity.

- Assess immunization status during every office visit, including sick visits and sports physicals.
- Check the I-CARE* registry for vaccine status of each patient before the visit.
- Give Tdap and all adolescent recommended vaccines during the visit, when possible.
- If only Tdap is given, schedule the patient for a return visit to receive all other recommended vaccines.
- Prepare for a potential back-to-school rush for the Tdap vaccine: e.g. schedule extra clinic hours, Tdap only visits, and adequate staffing.

The incidence of pertussis (whooping cough) has risen in the U.S. and also in Illinois. In 2009 in Illinois, 648 cases of pertussis were reported. In 2012, the number tripled to 2,021 cases in Illinois.

Provide clear documentation of having received the Tdap vaccine to patients and their schools.

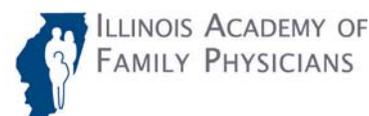
- Accepted documentation includes a physician's note, print out from an electronic medical record, or the school physical form with the month, day, and year that the Tdap vaccine was administered.
- Clear documentation helps school staff distinguish between doses of Tdap, Td, DTaP, DTP, etc.

AGE →	7 - 10 years	11 - 12 years	13 - 18 years
VACCINE ↓			
Tdap	Childhood Catch-Up	Recommended	Catch-Up
HPV			
MCV4	High Risk		Recommended
Flu	Recommended		

* Illinois Comprehensive Automated Immunization Registry Exchange; further information is available by calling 1-800-526-4372 or at www.idph.state.il.us/health/vaccine/icarefs.html.



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Adults 19 years and older need one Tdap vaccine, which may be administered at any interval after a Td booster.

Repeatedly assess which patients need the Tdap vaccine.

- Use your I-CARE, electronic health records, billing systems, or other record systems to determine which of your patients have not already received Tdap.
- Use I-CARE, Illinois' immunization registry, to generate patient reports.
- Patients who have not received Tdap need to be contacted and scheduled for their immunization immediately.

Ensure that your clinic has an adequate supply of vaccine.

- Order enough vaccine – How many patients need to receive Tdap and other routine vaccines?
 - Match your order cycle – If you order quarterly, only order doses needed for one quarter.
 - Re-order early enough to avoid running out. Vaccine orders require at least 2-3 weeks for delivery.
 - Do not order too much vaccine, so the vaccine doses may be properly stored.

Use VFC-supplied vaccines on VFC-eligible patients only.

- Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccine can only be administered to VFC-eligible patients: Medicaid eligible, uninsured, and American Indian/Alaskan Native patients.
- Under-insured patients (whose private health insurance does not cover vaccines) can only be vaccinated with VFC vaccines at Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Centers (RHCs), or a Local Public Health Department.
- Screening and documentation of VFC eligibility must be done at every visit.

Useful Immunization Resources

American Academy of Family Physicians
www.aafp.org

American Academy of Pediatrics, Illinois Chapter
<http://illinoisAAP.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Vaccines and Immunizations
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/

Chicago Area Immunization Campaign,
a project of the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
www.ilmaternal.org/caic

Illinois Academy of Family Physicians
www.iafp.com

Immunization Action Coalition
www.immunize.org

THINK pertussis:

Pertussis is often misdiagnosed. Pertussis immunity wanes after getting sick with pertussis or with previous vaccination. Learn the signs and symptoms of pertussis, how to test for pertussis, and treat if necessary: www.cdc.gov/pertussis/clinical/index.html.

