

Change in Tdap Requirements for 6th - 12th grade students

We recently informed parents of the law, which states the Tdap immunization is required for all children enrolling in 6th thru 12th grades. All students above 6th grade will benefit from getting the immunization. In fact Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recommends that, "Although school staff and parents are not required to receive the Tdap vaccine, the IDPH recommends that all persons 10 years of age and older get vaccinated with Tdap to protect against the ongoing threat of whooping cough."

However, the Illinois State Board of Education and IDPH changed the requirements for 2012-2013 requiring schools to be responsible for enforcement of the requirement for grades 6 and 9 only.

This fall, students entering sixth and ninth grades will be required to provide documentation of receipt of one dose of Tdap along with the school physical form for the 2012-2013 school year. Proof for the Tdap requirement includes the following information from a student's health care provider:

- Physician's note or letter which documents the vaccine (Tdap) and date (month, day, year) administered.
- Print-out from health care provider's electronic medical record system that identifies Tdap vaccination(s) and date administered.
- School physical form (Certificate of Child Health Examination) specifying Tdap and date (month, day, year) administered.

Students without proof of Tdap vaccination, an approved medical or religious exemption on file with the school, or an appointment to receive the Tdap shot during the school year will be subject to exclusion.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this immunization requirement.

Sandy Lawinger, District Nurse
630-545-3260