



2011 Tdap* Booster Requirement Immunization Against Pertussis (Whooping Cough)

Pertussis is widespread. If your child is 10 years and older has not yet received the 'Tdap' pertussis booster shot, please contact your doctor and schedule your child's re-immunization now. Getting a booster shot will protect your child against the ongoing threat of pertussis. The booster will meet a **new school requirement** that begins in the 2011-12 school year (California law – Assembly Bill 354). Adults are also advised to get a pertussis booster shot to protect themselves, their families and their students.

For the 2011-12 school year, all students entering 7th through 12th grades will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting school. This requirement:

- Begins July 1, 2011
- Can be met by the CDPH recommendation to receive one dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 10th birthday
- Applies to all public and private schools

Check www.getimmunizedca.org for general information about pertussis disease and immunization.

*Tdap = Tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis vaccine

PERTUSSIS BOOSTER NEW CALIFORNIA STATE LAW

Dear Parents,

For the 2011-2012 school year, all students entering 7th-12th grade will need proof of a Tdap booster before starting school in September, 2011. This is a booster to prevent the child from getting an infection with pertussis (whooping cough). This new law applies to all public, private and parochial schools. If a child does not receive the Tdap booster, he will not be allowed to start school. Assembly Bill 354, now California law, requires students be immunized against pertussis.

—this becomes effective July 2, 2011

—one dose of Tdap on or before the 10th birthday is required.

Pertussis is a bacterial infection. It is preventable by vaccination. Last year California had an epidemic of pertussis and many infant deaths. Babies are very susceptible to pertussis.

Some parents worry about the safety of vaccines. I know how they feel as a parent of a child with special needs. However the Tdap has been found safe and not linked to autism or other developmental diseases of childhood. As a mother and physician, I have given it to all my children. There can be local erythema or redness after the vaccine at the site or possibly low grade fever which resolves with Tylenol. This is not the vaccine that was given in the 1950s which had more serious side-effects.

Adults are also recommended to receive this booster instead of their regular tetanus booster which is given every 10 years. Pertussis is a very annoying illness in adults and causes a very long illness on the order of months! It is often mistaken for other illnesses such as allergies and the common cold--but it lasts much longer.

One Tdap booster is all you need. It gives lifetime immunity.

If a child has not received any of their Tdap vaccines since birth, then the whole series needs to be initiated this summer. Students will need proof of immunization to enter school in September, 2011.

To obtain your child's Tdap booster or begin his or her Tdap series you can go to your regular family doctor or pediatrician. If your family does not have health insurance, you may be able to obtain the booster on a drop-in basis at the Monrovia Public Health Center on 330 West Maple in Monrovia (626-256-1600). They will ask for proof of insurance or evidence that your insurance does not cover immunization. Be sure to bring your child's immunization record. Because they only see 20 patients for pertussis per day, I recommend you arrive early during one of the sessions below. It is no cost at all to go here if you need to.

Monrovia Public Health Center

M-F: 8-10:30 am and 12:30 to 3:00 pm

Wednesdays: 10-12:30 pm and 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Thank you for reading this and let's hope we have a safe and healthy year at our wonderful school.

Laura Peterson-Boldt, M.D.,
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