



Bayside Middle School
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New Vaccine Requirements for Students in Middle School-Planning Ahead for next year

TDAP Fact Sheet for Parents

Parents of current 5th grade students:

The Wisconsin Student Immunization law requires that all student’s entering the 6th grade receive a dose of Tdap vaccine. To be compliant with the school law, parents must provide their child’s school with proof of immunization or claim a waiver.

1. What grades are affected and what vaccines are required?

For the 2017-2018 school year, the following is required:

<u>Students entering</u>	<u>Vaccine(s)</u>
Grades 6	Tdap (1 dose)

Tdap is a vaccine that protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Only one dose is required.

2. What do parents need to do?

Have your child vaccinated with Tdap vaccine if he or she has not already received the vaccine. Record the date of the immunization in the appropriate box on the enclosed Student Immunization Record, sign the form and return it to your child’s school. Be sure to add the Tdap vaccination date to the permanent immunization record you keep for your child. In the future, your child may need to give these dates to other schools, colleges or employers.

To claim a waiver for health, religious or personal conviction reasons, follow the instructions on the Student Immunization Record and return the signed form to your child’s school.

3. Are there exceptions to the Tdap vaccine requirements?

Yes. If your child had received a tetanus-containing vaccine (such as Td vaccine) in the five years before entering the grade it is required, your child is compliant and Tdap vaccine is not required. Check the box marked “Td” on the Student Immunization Record, enter the date it was received and return the signed form to school.

4. If my child meets the Tdap requirement will he or she need to get another dose in a different grade in school?

No, Tdap is a one-time requirement. Once a child meets the vaccine requirement for the grade to which the requirement applies, no further doses are required. In other words, a student who receives Tdap before starting 6th grade does not need any more doses. If a child received a dose of Td vaccine within 5 years of entering 6th grade, that child has met the Tdap requirement (even though she/he has not received Tdap vaccine) and will not be required to receive Tdap vaccine now or in the future grade.

5. If my child already had pertussis (whooping cough) disease, should he or she still get the Tdap vaccine?

A history of pertussis disease is not an exception to the Tdap requirement. Children who have had pertussis should still receive Tdap because the length of protection provided by the disease is unknown and because the diagnosis can be difficult to confirm in some instances.

6. Where can I get Tdap and/or varicella vaccine for my child?

These vaccines are available from your child's medical provider, local health department and some pharmacies.

*Please have your child immunized well in advance of school opening to avoid the late summer rush at doctor's offices and immunization clinics.

7. Why are these requirements being made?

Pertussis is a serious disease. It is easily passed from person-to-person and can cause outbreaks in schools. Wisconsin has experienced two state-wide pertussis outbreaks in the past 10 years. Studies have shown that the protection gained from the DTP/DTaP vaccines received as a young child begins to decline 5 to 10 years after vaccination; the Tdap vaccine will boost immunity and help protect your adolescent from pertussis.

8. Are there any other vaccines that are recommended for my adolescent?

Yes. There are three other vaccines that are routinely recommended for teens. The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine protects against a virus that is a common cause of cancer. The meningococcal conjugate vaccine protects against meningococcal disease (meningitis), and an annual influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older.

9. Where can I get more information?

- Center for Disease Control (CDC):
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vdp-vac/pertussis/default.htm>
- Wisconsin Immunization Program <https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/pertussis.htm>
- Your child's medical provider or local health department

Thank you for your attention to this important change!

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