



Bayside Middle School

601 E Ellsworth Lane

Bayside, WI 53217

Ph: 414-247-4226 Fax: 414-247-8963

Vaccine Requirements for Students in Middle School

Tdap Fact Sheet for Parents

Parents of incoming 7th grade students:

The Wisconsin Student Immunization law requires that all students entering the 7th 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. This requirement is being shifted from 6th grade to 7th grade with the 2023-24 school year. Your child may have received this vaccine prior to 6th grade.

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

For the 2023-2024 school year, the following is required:

<u>Students entering</u>	<u>Vaccine(s)</u>
Grade 7	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, prior to the start of the next school year. 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.

Once your child has received the Tdap vaccine, provide that date to the school health office. To claim a waiver for health, religious or personal conviction reasons, follow the instructions on the Student Immunization Record (available in the school health office) and return the signed form to school. The vaccine or waiver should be provided prior to the start of the next school year.

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. It is recommended that adults receive a Tdap booster every 10 years and in certain other situations.

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.

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.
- Tetanus is a bacteria that can enter the body through cuts or wounds. It is commonly found in soil, dust, or manure. It causes severe muscle spasms that can lead to respiratory compromise, prolonged recovery period, or death.
- Diphtheria is an infection of the respiratory tract that causes swelling in the throat, paralysis, and potentially death. Prior to the introduction of the vaccine, it was a leading cause of death in children.

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>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/tetanus/index.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/diphtheria/index.html>
- Wisconsin Immunization Program <https://dhswisconsin.gov/immunization/pertussis.htm>
- Your child's primary health care provider or local health department

Thank you for your attention to this important information!

Monica Cain, RN, BSN
District Nurse
(414)247-4226
mcain@foxbay.org