

FACT SHEET FOR SCHOOLS

Tdap and Varicella Requirements

Two new vaccine requirements (varicella and Tdap) were added to the Student School Immunization Law beginning with the 2008-2009 school year. Since the 2013-2014 school year, all students have needed to comply with these new requirements.

For 2014 and beyond, the requirements are as follows:

- One dose of **Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis) vaccine** is required for students entering grades **6 through 12**.
- A second dose of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine is required for students entering grades **K5 (5 yr old kindergarten) through 12**.

1. What do schools need to do and what forms should be used?

Inform parents of children in the affected grades about the requirements. The State of Wisconsin Immunization Program website has information and forms that may be used. Go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/reqs.htm. Under *School Requirements*, select *School Immunization Requirements Booklet* to locate the forms.

- Student Immunization Law Age/Grade Requirements (2014 School Year and Beyond)
- Fact Sheet for Parents
- Student Immunization Record (F-04020L, Rev 07/12)

The Student Immunization Record should be used to document the Tdap and varicella vaccines. Parents should complete the boxes outlined in bold, sign and return the form to school.

2. Are there exceptions to the Tdap requirement?

Yes, for Tdap vaccine, the student is compliant if:

- Entering 6th grade **and** received any tetanus-containing vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT, TT or Td) within 5 years. Tdap vaccine is **not required** now or in a future grade. However, it is **recommended** by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that everyone age 11 and older receive a Tdap.
- Enrolling for the first time in a Wisconsin school **and** entering 6th through 12th grade **and** received any tetanus-containing vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT, TT or Td) within 5 years. Tdap vaccine is **not required** now or in a future grade. However, it is **recommended** by the CDC that everyone age 11 and older receive a Tdap.

Example: If a student received a dose of Td vaccine because of an injury within 5 years of entering 6th grade, the student has met the Tdap requirement (even though s/he has not actually received Tdap vaccine); the student is **not required** to receive Tdap vaccine now and will always remain compliant with the school law.

IMPORTANT NOTE

If a 7th through 12th grader was compliant with the Tdap requirement or the exception in a previous year, DO NOT review their record again for Tdap.

Once a student is compliant, they remain compliant with the school law EVEN IF it is now more than 5 years since their last tetanus-containing vaccine.

3. Are there exceptions to the varicella requirement?

For the varicella vaccine, if a parent claims that a child has had chickenpox disease or shingles, even after the first dose of chickenpox vaccine, that child is not required to receive another vaccine and is compliant with the law.

4. Can vaccine requirements be waived?

Any immunization requirements may be waived if parents elect a religious or personal conviction waiver on the Student Immunization Record form. They must check the appropriate box and sign the waiver. A health waiver is also available and must be signed by a physician.

If you have questions about these vaccine requirements, please contact Waukesha County Public Health Division at 262-896-8430 and ask for the Nurse Call Center or access the information on our website at www.waukeshacounty.gov/immunizations.