

FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3



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Dr. Tim J. Mahaffy,
Superintendent

"Educational Excellence is the Pathway to a Successful Future"

January 9, 2012

Dear Parents,

In response to the recent outbreak of Pertussis in McHenry County, I am passing along the new Law concerning the Pertussis vaccine. **Tdap, Adacel, or Boostrix** must be indicated on your child's physical form. The Illinois Department of Health has released information early, in an effort to prepare **kids in grades 6-12, to meet the new requirement before the start of the 2012-13 School Year**

Enclosed, is your child's most recent physical, indicating the vaccine was not administered, or it was improperly documented according to the new law. I have also provided you with the new Illinois State Physical form. If you think your child has already received the Pertussis Vaccine, please contact your child's Physician to obtain a copy of his or her most recent physical. Be sure to inquire about the status of your child's Pertussis vaccine. If your child's physical form does not clearly state **Tdap, Adacel, or Boostrix** was administered, please schedule an appointment as soon as possible for your child to receive the immunization. This will alleviate the rush to Dr.'s offices, as we approach the Fall 2012 deadline. We appreciate your help with making this a smooth transition. Thank you in advance for your help in gaining compliance for our district. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Laura Chamerlik, District 3 RN (847-462-2418)

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Fax physical forms to 847-516-9169 or drop off in sealed envelope to School Nurse

The rule requiring one dose of Tdap for all student in grades 6-12 was approved by JCAR on 9-27-11. Because this was not passed until after the current school year started, IDPH is not requiring full enforcement of this until fall 2012 school enrollment.

For questions call the IDPH immunization program at 800-526-4372

The rule now says

Any child entering sixth grade shall show proof (see Section 665.250(b) of receiving one dose of Tdap (defined as tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccine regardless of the interval since the last DTaP, DT or Td dose.

Students entering grades seven through 12 who have not already received Tdap are required to receive 1 Tdap dose regardless of the interval since the last DTaP, DT or Td dose.

Note, there is a difference between DTaP and Tdap!

Both vaccines contain inactivated forms of the toxin produced by the bacteria that cause the three diseases. Inactivated means the substance no longer produces disease, but does trigger the body to create antibodies that give it immunity against the toxins.

DTaP is approved for children under 7.

Tdap, which has a reduced dose of the diphtheria and pertussis vaccines, is approved for adolescents starting at the age of 11 or 12 and adults ages 19 to 64.

The pediatric formulations usually have 3-5 times as much of the diphtheria component than what is in the adult formulation. This is indicated by an upper-case "D" for the pediatric formulation (i.e., DTaP, DT) and a lower case "d" for the adult formulation (Tdap, Td). The amount of tetanus toxoid in each of the products is equivalent, so it remains an upper-case "T."