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## School Immunization Requirement Change

January 16, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In Washington State, the Tdap vaccine is required for school attendance in certain grades. The Tdap is a booster vaccine which continues to protect your child against the tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis diseases they were immunized against as young child.

Starting on August 1, 2020 the Tdap school requirement is changing to start at 7<sup>th</sup> grade to better align with the updated 2019 [national immunization schedule \(https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html). In the past the Tdap booster was required starting at 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

For the 2020-2021 school year all students attending grades 7 through 12 must have had one dose of Tdap vaccine:

- For students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, the Tdap vaccine must be given at or after age 10 to be accepted for school entry.
- For students in 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades, the Tdap vaccine must be given at or after age 7 to be accepted for school entry.

To update your child's Tdap immunization record at the school, you will need to turn in a **medically verified immunization record**. Your child's health care provider can print this for you, or you can print it from [MyIR](https://wa.myir.net/register), which is a free Department of Health online tool that allows families to view and print their official immunization records themselves. Go to <https://wa.myir.net/register> to begin the sign-up process.

If you have already let the school know that your child has had the required Tdap vaccine or your child has a valid exemption on file with their school, they will be unaffected by this rule change and you will not need to do anything.

To find out more about this change, or the other changes to immunization rules also happening this fall, please visit the [Washington State Department of Health's website at www.doh.wa.gov/SCCI](http://www.doh.wa.gov/SCCI).

Sincerely,

Rebecca Cavanaugh, MN, RN, NCSN