New Vaccine Requirements for Students in Middle and High School

Tdap and Varicella Vaccines

Fact Sheet for Parents

Parents of Middle and High School Students:

Changes in the Wisconsin Student Immunization law now require two different vaccines for middle and high school students. Parents are required to have their children vaccinated or claim a waiver. Use the attached Student Immunization Record to record the date(s) of immunization(s) or claim a waiver.

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

For the 2009-2010 school year, the following is required:

Students entering	Vaccine(s)
Grades 6, 7 and 12	Tdap (1 dose) and Varicella (2 doses)
Grades 9 and 10	Tdap (1 dose)

The varicella vaccine protects against chickenpox. Previously only one dose was required.

Tdap is the adolescent combination vaccine that protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).

2. What do parents need to do?

Have your child vaccinated with Tdap and/or varicella vaccine if he or she has not already received the vaccine(s). Record the date(s) of the immunization(s) in the bold outlined box(s) on the enclosed Student Immunization Record, sign it and return it to your child's school. Be sure to add the Tdap and varicella vaccine dates to the permanent immunization record you keep for your child at home. 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 and varicella vaccine requirements?

Yes. If your child had received a tetanus-containing vaccine (such as Td vaccine after an injury) within the last 5 years of 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.