

Immunization Rule Change: Tdap Requirement Changes

State immunization rules for the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine booster have changed for the 2020-21 school year. All students attending grades 7 through 12 must have one dose of Tdap vaccine or a valid exemption. Previously, students had to have the vaccine by 6th grade. The minimum age Tdap can be given for school entry will be aligned with the national age recommendation:

- Students entering 7th grade will need Tdap given at or after age 10 to be accepted for school entry.
- Students entering 8th to 12th grade will need Tdap at or after age 7 to be accepted for school entry.

The Department of Health has [a webpage dedicated to the immunization rule change](#), which includes information on the Tdap dose requirement.

Guidance for Health Care Providers:

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended schedule says that children who receive a Tdap at age 7–9 years should receive the routine Tdap dose at age 11–12 years. A Tdap dose given at age 10 does not need to be repeated at age 11-12. Health care providers are encouraged to do reminder/recall messaging over the summer for children 11 to 12 years of age who need their Tdap vaccine.

Health care providers should consider walk-in appointments for immunizations when the 2020-21 school year starts. Please remember to provide medical immunization records to the parent or guardian during the child's visit. To reduce appointments for immunization paperwork, health care providers can encourage parents/guardians to sign up for MyIR, which allows them to print their own verified records from the Immunization Information System. You can find more information on our [webpage](#).

National Infant Immunization Week

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) takes place April 25 through May 2, and highlights the importance of protecting young children from vaccine preventable diseases. It's also a great time to highlight immunization programs and partners that promote healthy communities. Please join us in promoting infant immunization during these dates!

Not sure what to post? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a variety of resources and content for those looking to post about vaccination during NIIW, including social media, images, and other educational materials. You can read more about NIIW and find resources [here](#).

The Department of Health will post content all week on the [Watch Me Grow in Washington](#) (English) and the [Mirame Crecer](#) (Spanish) Facebook pages, and we will tweet about NIIW on [the department's Twitter feed](#). Make sure to thank those you know who support immunization and keep Washington state happy and healthy.