

SCHOOL IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



DOES AN 8TH GRADE STUDENT NEED TDAP, EVEN IF THE STUDENT HAD A DOSE OF TD AT 11-12 YEARS?

Yes, if it has been two years or more since the last dose of Td. No, if it has been less than two years since the last dose of Td.

DOES AN 8TH GRADE STUDENT NEED ANOTHER TDAP, EVEN IF THE STUDENT HAD A DOSE OVER TWO YEARS AGO?

No, if a student received a Tdap booster. Tdap is licensed for only one dose, so the student will not need another dose of Tdap.

IS THERE A SPECIFIC POINT TO USE TO DETERMINE IF THE STUDENT IS IN COMPLIANCE?

The first day of school marks the point in time for assessing compliance. However, those students who will pass the two-year mark since having received a Td vaccine should be tracked during the year and appropriate reminders given to receive the Tdap vaccine.

AT WHAT POINT DOES THE TWO-YEAR PERIOD BEGIN FOR ASSESSING COMPLIANCE OF STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED TD?

The two-year period begins the day the student received the Td vaccine.

WHAT SCHEDULE SHOULD BE USED TO VACCINATE 8TH GRADE STUDENTS THAT HAVE NEVER RECEIVED THE PRIMARY SERIES OF TETANUS TOXOID-CONTAINING VACCINE?

For 10-12 grades, a Tdap or Td booster is required 10 years after the last dose of DTaP, DTP or DT, especially if they are in contact with an infant younger than age 12 months or live in a community where pertussis is occurring.

WHAT SCHEDULE SHOULD BE USED TO VACCINATE 8TH GRADE STUDENTS WHO HAVE NEVER RECEIVED THE PRIMARY SERIES OF TETANUS TOXOID-CONTAINING VACCINE?

Adolescents (10 through 18 years of age) who have never received tetanus-containing vaccines, or whose vaccination history is unknown, should receive the three-dose series. In this age group, the ACIP catch-up schedule recommends Tdap for dose #1, followed four weeks later by Td for dose #2, followed at least six months later by Td for dose #3. Tdap can substitute for only one of the three Td doses in the series.

WHAT IS THE TDAP REQUIREMENT FOR AN INCOMING 8TH GRADE STUDENT THAT HAD A PERTUSSIS EXEMPTION AS A CHILD?

The student will need a signed medical exemption, if there isn't one on file. Another Td dose will not be necessary unless the student has passed the interval for another dose.

A STUDENT HAD A VACCINE CALLED DTaP WHEN HE WAS A CHILD, IS THIS THE SAME THING AS TDAP?

No, DTaP and Tdap protect against the same three diseases, but the vaccines are different. DTaP is given to children younger than seven years of age, and Tdap is given to adolescents 10 years and older. The Tdap vaccine is necessary to boost immunity against these three diseases.

WHY WAS THE STATEMENT "MAXIMUM NEEDED FOUR DOSES" REMOVED FROM THE POLIO REQUIREMENTS?

In summer 2009, ACIP updated its recommendations for use of inactivated poliovirus vaccines (IPV) partly in response to the availability of newer combination vaccines (e.g. Pentacel) that include an IPV component. ACIP now recommends that children receive at least one dose of IPV between age four through 6 years old, even if they have previously received four doses or more. The interval between the next-to-last and last dose should be at least six months. This means that some children may receive a total of four doses or more, a practice ACIP considers acceptable.



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DO THE ACIP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IPV AFFECT ALL GRADES OR JUST INCOMING KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE STUDENTS?

The 2010 IPV change affects the incoming kindergarten and first grade students.

IF A KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE STUDENT HAS HAD NO VARICELLA IMMUNIZATIONS, WHAT IS THE MINIMUM INTERVAL BETWEEN DOSE ONE AND DOSE TWO?

The ACIP recommendations indicate three months. An In-progress card is acceptable for this three-month interval.

WILL KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE STUDENTS WHO HAVE HAD CHICKENPOX DISEASE THAT WAS NOT CONFIRMED BY A DOCTOR NEED VARICELLA IMMUNIZATIONS TO BEGIN SCHOOL?

Yes, students beginning kindergarten during or after the 2010-2011 school year must have a varicella immunization. Documentation of chickenpox by a parent will no longer be accepted as proof of disease.

WOULD IT BE ACCEPTABLE FOR A NURSE PRACTITIONER TO PROVIDE A STATEMENT THAT A STUDENT HAS HAD CHICKENPOX?

No, students beginning kindergarten during or after the 2010-2011 school year are required to have written documentation of chickenpox signed by a licensed doctor of medicine (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO).

IS A RUBBER STAMP SIGNATURE ACCEPTABLE? IS A FAXED DOCUMENT THAT HAS BEEN SIGNED BY A LICENSED DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (MD) OR DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHY (DO) ACCEPTABLE?

Yes, the superintendent or designee may accept a faxed written statement from the office of a licensed doctor of medicine (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO), containing a rubber stamp signature.

ARE STATEMENTS SIGNED BY PARENTS IDENTIFYING THE DATE A CHILD HAD CHICKENPOX ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION 2ND AND 6TH GRADES?

Yes, the rule change only affects incoming kindergarten and first grade students.

IF STUDENTS ARE REPEATING A GRADE, DO THEY FOLLOW THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE GRADE THEY ARE CURRENTLY IN OR THE GRADE THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN IN?

Requirements must be followed for the current grade. Missouri school immunization requirements are based on grades, not age.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE (IMMUNIZATION RECORD) OF IMMUNIZATIONS FOR THE STATE OF MISSOURI?

Satisfactory evidence of immunization means a statement, certificate, or record from a physician or his or her designee, other recognized health facility, immunization registry, school record, or child care record stating that the required immunizations have been given to the individual. This statement, certificate, or record shall provide documentation of the specific antigen and the month, day, and year of vaccine administration.

