

IMMUNIZATION BULLETIN

New Tdap School Requirement for Grades 7-12

Background:

In October the Governor signed AB354 requiring all students entering 7th -12th grades to provide proof of Tdap vaccination starting July 1, 2011. Exemptions for medical contraindications and personal beliefs will be allowed. Approximately half of San Diego students in this age range will need Tdap immunizations. All must show documentation of Tdap immunization for school entry. California Departments of Public Health and Education are in the process of developing the required forms for Tdap documentation, therefore, most schools cannot presently document this information. The number of students needing immunization and/or documentation is very large and we expect providers and schools will experience high demand especially during spring registration periods and the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

Recommended Strategies

To minimize the impact of this requirement on your practice, SDIP recommends the following:

- **Start now!** Review adolescents' immunization records & vaccinate with **Tdap** when needed at all appointments. Don't forget teens should have flu, meningococcal & HPV vaccines as well.
- **Provide documentation of Tdap.** Documentation must include name, date of birth, type of vaccine given, date vaccine given, and name of physician or clinic administering the vaccine. Schools will accept Yellow Cards or print-outs from electronic systems such as EMR or SDIR.
- **Make sure Tdap is given & documented.** Dtap will not be accepted as a fulfillment of the Tdap requirement. Some teens have Yellow Cards that do not include space to document Tdap, so it will need to be clearly written that Tdap was given.
- **Promote parent use of the San Diego Immunization Registry (SDIR).** Provide parents with a copy of the complete immunization history and a SDIR/CAIR form. SDIP will enter individuals' records into SDIR where schools will have access to the information. SDIR/CAIR forms can be downloaded at www.sdiz.org.
- **Offer Tdap clinics that coincide school-related events & vaccination campaigns.**
 - Preteen vaccine week Feb 6-12th
 - During spring registration periods
 - Prior to the start of school in July

The SDIP will send updates with additional information as it becomes available.

Additional Resources

San Diego Immunization Branch: www.sdiz.org/healthcarepros/

California Department of Public Health: www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize

For additional information: 619-692-5656

Visit our website at WWW.SDIZ.ORG