

New Immunization Requirement for All Students Entering 7th Grade beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

The Iowa Department of Public Health, Immunization Program has made a change to the Iowa Administrative Code to require a Tdap vaccination for all adolescents enrolled in secondary school. It will be effective beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. The new language is intended to require adolescents entering 7th grade (approximately 13 years of age) to have one dose of the Tdap vaccine.

This requirement will help Iowa achieve and maintain high vaccination adolescent coverage levels while reducing the number of pertussis (whooping cough) cases occurring annually in Iowa. There are approximately 417% more persons with pertussis disease this year compared to the average of the past five years (the five year average is 193; 1156 cases were reported for 2012 through August of 2012).

As you schedule physicals for athletics or if you are in your physician's office this spring or summer, please ask about this booster vaccine. Documentation of the Tdap vaccine on the Certificate of Immunization will need to be provided to the middle school nurse prior to the first day of school.

If you are need of financial assistance to obtain the vaccination, please contact Iowa Department of Public Health for available resources at 1-800-831-6293.