

Reminder: Vaccination Requirement for Student's entering 6th Grade

The Td or Tdap vaccine is required by Wisconsin law for children entering the 6th grade, ages 11-12, or you would need to claim a waiver if you are choosing not to vaccinate your child for personal, religious or health reasons.

Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis can be very serious diseases. Tdap vaccine can protect us from these diseases. The Td vaccine will protect people from Tetanus and diphtheria, but not pertussis.

TETANUS or, Lockjaw, causes painful muscle tightening and stiffness leading to tightening of muscles in the head and neck so you are unable open your mouth, swallow, or sometimes even breathe resulting in 1 out of 5 people dying.

DIPHTHERIA can cause a thick coating to form in the back of the throat leading to breathing trouble, paralysis, heart failure, and death.

PERTUSSIS or, Whooping Cough, causes severe coughing spells, leading to difficulty breathing, vomiting and interrupted sleep.

The new Tdap vaccine is important because from 1986 through 2004 Wisconsin had the 5th highest rate of pertussis in the nation. Protection from Pertussis decreases after 5-10 years after completion of the DTP/DTaP vaccines. The Tdap vaccine is new to help prevent pertussis from occurring in the community and in schools. A person with Pertussis must stay home from work and school a minimum of 5 days with antibiotic treatment, thus, having a huge impact on families with work responsibilities and students with school responsibilities.

Please remember the newer vaccination requirements as you prepare for the upcoming school year with physician visits.

Source: Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Wisconsin Department of health services.