



Pat Quinn, Governor  
LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Director

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Dear Parent,

This is to inform you that beginning next school year (Fall of 2013) all students entering, advancing, or transferring into 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, or 12<sup>th</sup> grades will be required to show proof of receipt of one dose of Tdap vaccine (combined tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccine regardless of the interval since the last *DTaP*, *DT* or *Td* dose<sup>[1]</sup>.

This requirement is important because pertussis (whooping cough) disease continues to occur throughout many Illinois communities and vaccination of children and adolescents reduces illness and absenteeism among school-age students. In addition, pertussis infections in infants can be fatal, and reducing the spread of pertussis through vaccination of community members helps to protect infants, especially those who are too young to be fully vaccinated.

Most students may have already received the vaccine and simply need to provide the school with verifying documentation from the family health care provider. Documentation accepted as complying with the requirement for students entering 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades for the 2013-14 school year includes the following information:

- Note or letter, signed by health care provider and identifying the vaccine (Tdap) and date (month, day, and year) administered.
- Print-out from provider's electronic medical record system that identifies Tdap vaccination(s) and date administered for student in question.
- Current Certificate of Child Health Examination (see link below), specifying Tdap and date (month, day, year) administered.

[http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/vaccine/child\\_hlth\\_forms/Child\\_Hlth\\_Exam\\_Cert.pdf](http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/vaccine/child_hlth_forms/Child_Hlth_Exam_Cert.pdf)

In addition to health care providers, many local health departments, and pharmacies offer the vaccine. The Illinois Department of Public Health recommends that parents get their adolescents immunized now to avoid a last-minute rush during the summer. Students without adequate proof of vaccination will be subject to exclusion as described in the School Code of Illinois

<http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/documents/010500050K27-8.1.htm><sup>[2]</sup>.



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<sup>[1]</sup> There are four combination vaccines used to prevent diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis: DTaP, Tdap, DT, and Td. Two of these (DTaP and DT) are given to children younger than 7 years of age, and two (Tdap and Td) are given to older children and adults. Several other combination vaccines contain DTaP along with other childhood vaccines.

<sup>[2]</sup> 105 ILCS 5/27-8.1