



Dear Parent/Guardian of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student:

In 2008, the Wisconsin Student Immunization law added the Tdap vaccine for students entering grades 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>. You are receiving this letter because our records show that your incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade child may not have received the Tdap vaccine. The following information should help answer your questions about the requirement:

**1. What is the requirement?**

- 1 dose of **Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine)** for students entering grades **6-12**

**2. What do parents need to do?** Enclosed is the immunization record we have at school for your child. Have your child vaccinated with Tdap vaccine if he or she has not already received the vaccine(s). If you have already given permission for MMSD to exchange immunization information with the Wisconsin Immunization Registry, your child's updated immunization information will automatically be provided to MMSD. If you have not given permission to exchange immunization information, please

- Submit immunization information on-line at <https://studentservices.madison.k12.wi.us/node/646> or
- Fax it to 204-0349

To claim a personal, religious or medical waiver, **follow the instructions on the Student Immunization Record and return the signed form to your child's school.**

**3. Are there exceptions to the Tdap vaccine requirements?**

- If your child will be entering grades 6-12 and already received a tetanus-containing vaccine (e.g. Td vaccine) within the last 5 years, your child is compliant and Tdap vaccine is not required at this time.

**4. If my child already had pertussis disease, should he or she still get the Tdap vaccine?**

Children who have had pertussis disease should receive Tdap according to the routine recommendations because the length of protection provided by disease is unknown and because the diagnosis can be difficult to confirm.

**5. Where can I get Tdap and/or varicella vaccine for my child?**

These vaccines are available from your child's primary care provider. Please schedule an appointment with your primary care provider soon to avoid the late summer rush at clinics. If your child is uninsured, has BadgerCare or Medical Assistance, has "major medical insurance" (only covering hospitalization; no preventive care coverage), or is Native American or Alaska Native, the vaccines can be received from the local public health department. For information about public health department immunization clinic schedules **only**, go to <https://www.publichealthmdc.com/disease/immunizations/> or call Public Health Madison-Dane County at 266-4821.

**6. I'm not sure if my child had these vaccines. Is there somewhere I can access their record?** Check with your health care provider OR you may look up your child's immunization record on the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/wir.htm>. Then click on the 'Public Immunization Records Access' tab to view your child's record.

Sincerely,

*Sally Zirbel-Donisch*

Sally Zirbel-Donisch MS, RN  
Health Services Coordinator