



# THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

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[nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health)

**\*\*\* PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ALL PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE AND OFFICE STAFF \*\*\***

February 6, 2008

Dear Colleague/School Personnel:

The Bureau of Immunization of the New York (NYC) City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has received several calls from both providers and school personnel requesting clarification of the recommendations and/or school requirements for Tdap vaccine. Confusion about the recommendations and requirements has resulted in documentation and vaccine administration errors on a number of occasions, which, in addition to the administration of the wrong vaccine, also leads to unnecessary school exclusion. The following bullets address the relevant points of concern:

- DT/DTaP should not be given after the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- The preferred age for Tdap vaccination is 11-12 years of age.
- Tdap is licensed only for  $\geq 10$  years (Boostrix<sup>®</sup>), or  $\geq 11$  years of age (Adacel<sup>®</sup>).
- If a student has received a tetanus-containing vaccine within the preceding 2 years, the required Tdap vaccination can be deferred for a two-year period. However, if a student does receive Tdap within that two-year period, the dose is considered valid, and the school requirement is satisfied.
- If DTaP is given inadvertently (instead of Tdap) within the 2 year time period, Tdap should not be given. The school requirement is satisfied.
- Any child without documentation of a primary series of at least three doses of a tetanus and diphtheria toxoid containing vaccine should receive a series of three doses of such a vaccine. One of the doses, preferably the first, should be Tdap, if the child is at least 10 years of age. See CDC link below for the schedule.
- Accurately documenting the administered vaccine as Tdap and not DTaP is crucial to avoiding the errors described above.
- If documentation of Tdap is in doubt, the provider must be contacted directly to verify which vaccine was administered.

Additional information about Tdap can be found at [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5503.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5503.pdf) and for 2007-2008 school requirements, at [www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/chi/chi26-5.pdf](http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/chi/chi26-5.pdf).

All doses of any vaccine administered to children <19 years of age in New York City must be reported to the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR). For questions about the CIR, please call 212-676-2323. For professional or technical questions, please call the Bureau of Immunization at 212-676-2259.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, M.D., M.Sc.  
Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of Immunization