

March 1, 2011

Dear Healthcare Provider:

[Under a new law](#), all California middle and high school students entering or advancing into 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting the 2011-2012 school year. Act now to ensure your adolescent patients are protected against the ongoing threat of pertussis and ready for school entry next fall by taking the following steps:

1. **View the free 1 hour CME webcast:** *Shots For School: Clinicians' Role in California's New Tdap Requirement for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Graders*, available at [www.uctv.tv/capertussis/](http://www.uctv.tv/capertussis/).
2. **Send reminder and recall phone calls and notices NOW** to your patients who have not yet received a Tdap booster, including those who have received a dose of Td but not Tdap.
3. **Order enough Tdap vaccine** to immunize your patients affected by the new law. Before ordering, **ensure you have adequate storage** in your vaccine refrigerator for your orders – **in many clinics, multiple orders will be indicated.**
4. **Immunize with Tdap NOW at every opportunity**, including sports physicals and visits for mild illness or injury, and **give other recommended immunizations:** meningococcal conjugate, HPV, influenza, and any catch-up doses of varicella, MMR, and hepatitis B.
5. **Provide clear and accurate documentation about Tdap immunization for your patients and their schools.** Vaccines have similar names and abbreviations, e.g. Tdap, Td, DTaP, DT, etc., which can be confusing to the school staff who will be keeping records for the new law. If you use the California Immunization Registry, consider printing out a copy of the 'Blue Card' after Tdap has been given for the student to take to school.
7. **Have parents check with their child's school** about how they should provide the Tdap documentation.
8. **Post downloadable [electronic banners](#) on your practice's website** and in electronic newsletters to help notify your patients.

For additional information on the new Tdap school requirement, visit [www.ShotsForSchool.org](http://www.ShotsForSchool.org).

California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch