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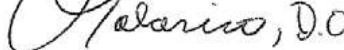


EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

January 5, 2012

IZB-FY-1112-06

TO: Vaccines for Children (VFC) Providers

FROM: John Talarico, D.O., M.P.H., Chief 
Center for Infectious Diseases
Division of Communicable Disease Control, Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine (Tdap):

- Thanks for your efforts in meeting 2011-2012 7th-12th Grade Requirement
- Ongoing Requirement for 7th Grade School Entry
- Specific Recommendations, including for Pregnant Women and Close Contacts of Infants

The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program would like to thank you for your diligence in immunizing 7th through 12th grade students with Tdap to meet the new 2011-2012 school year requirement. California health care providers and schools have immunized and reviewed documentation for approximately three million students, representing the largest student immunization requirement in California since, at least, the advent of polio vaccine. Your efforts will protect the health of students and schools and communities in California and are deeply appreciated.

The California VFC Program would like to hear your comments about implementing the new Tdap requirement. You are invited to take a brief survey (approximately five minutes) by clicking [here](#) (or going to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/29ZL73C>).

Ongoing Seventh Grade Pertussis Booster Requirements – Comprehensive Care Visits

As a reminder, in the 2012-13 and future school years, all California students will need proof of a pertussis booster when entering the 7th grade. We encourage you to schedule 6th graders for preteen visits and receive Tdap immunization now to protect them as soon as possible.

Use a preteen preventive health visit now to:

- Administer all recommended immunizations (Tdap, meningococcal conjugate vaccine, HPV vaccine, influenza vaccine; catch up doses of varicella, MMR, hepatitis B, etc.).
- Discuss other key preventive health issues, including nutrition, physical activity, safety, mental health, and peer pressure.

Your office and families will be busy during the back-to-school period next summer, and appointments will fill quickly, so don't delay!

Patient Reminder/Recall

During the rush to get patients immunized with Tdap this summer to meet the school requirement, some may have not received all age-appropriate recommended vaccines. If any of your patients missed receiving these other vaccines, they should be recalled to return to your practice to receive the deferred immunizations.

ACIP and Other Specific Recommendations for Tdap

Please note that the following recommendations for Tdap use may or may not have an upper age limit. However, for the purpose of the VFC Program, VFC-supplied vaccine can only be used on VFC-eligible children through age 18.

- **Pregnant Women**: The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has [revised its recommendations for use of Tdap during pregnancy](#). They are now similar to those from the American Academy of Pediatrics and the California Department of Public Health. Pregnant women and adolescents who have not previously received Tdap should receive a dose of Tdap, preferably after 20 weeks of gestation. If not administered during pregnancy, Tdap can be administered immediately postpartum.
- **Close Contacts of Infants**: Adolescents and adults (no upper age limit) who have not received Tdap and who anticipate having close contact with an infant younger than 12 months of age should receive the vaccine at least two weeks before close contact with the infant. This includes [health care personnel](#), family members, friends, and child care providers. All staff in your office or clinical setting should have documentation of a Tdap immunization.
- **Wound Management**: Anyone 7 years and older (no upper age limit) who has not received Tdap and is [indicated to receive a tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine for wound management](#), including pregnant women, should receive Tdap rather than Td or TT.
- **Interval between Tdap and Td**: Tdap may be given at any time after a prior dose of Td.

Providers are encouraged to review the details of ACIP recommendations for Tdap:

- Use of Tdap during pregnancy and cocooning updated recommendations – [October 2011 MMWR](#).
- Use of Tdap in health care personnel – [November 2011 MMWR](#).
- Clarification of Td/Tdap interval; use of Tdap in 7 through 10 years and 65 years and older - [January 2011 MMWR](#).

Vaccine Information Statement

Please make sure to use the most up-to-date Tdap [Vaccine Information Statement \(VIS\)](#). The VIS may be downloaded at <http://www.eziz.org>.

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please call your VFC Field Representative or the VFC Program at 877-243-8832 (877-2GET-VFC) or visit www.eziz.org

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