

Dear Parents/Guardian:

01-23-2013

The Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Immunization, has completed the administrative rules process to require tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine for students enrolling in the 7th grade. The administrative rule change is effective January 16, 2013, and will be implemented at the beginning of the upcoming 2013-2014 school year.

THE CHANGE WILL REQUIRE PROOF OF A ONE-TIME BOOSTER DOSE OF TETANUS, DIPHTHERIA, AND ACCELLULAR PERTUSSIS-CONTAINING VACCINE FOR APPLICANTS IN GRADES 7 AND ABOVE, IF BORN ON OR AFTER SEPTEMBER 15, 2000; REGARDLESS OF TH INTERVAL SINCE THE LAST TETANUM/DIPHTHERIA CONTAINING VACCINE.

Pertussis or whooping cough is caused by *Bordetella pertussis* and causes epidemics every 3-5 years. In 2007, there were 152 confirmed and probable cases in Iowa. In 2012, the number of cases increased to 1,647; an increase of approximately 417%. Pertussis is a very contagious disease. Among vaccine-preventable diseases, pertussis is one of the most commonly occurring ones in the US. It can cause serious illness in infants, children and adults. The disease starts like a common cold, with runny nose or congestion, sneezing and maybe a mild cough or fever. But after 1-2 weeks, severe coughing can begin. Pertussis can become a series of coughing fits that continues for weeks. Pertussis can cause violent and rapid coughing, over and over. In infants, the cough can be minimal or not even present. They may instead have life- threatening pauses in breathing.

A dose of Tdap is recommended for persons 11-18 yrs of age who have not received a dose, followed by Td booster doses every 10 years thereafter.

Adults younger than age 65 years who have not received a dose of Tdap, or for whom vaccine status is unknown, should be immunized as soon as feasible to replace one of the 10 year Td boosters.

Adults age 65 years and older who have not previously received a dose of Tdap, should receive a one-time dose to protect infants.

The role of a school immunization requirement is to assist in the removal of barriers to vaccine, achieve high vaccination coverage rates and subsequently lower rates of vaccine-preventable diseases.

Prior to this change, Iowa was one of 10 states that did not have a Td

or Tdap vaccine requirement for secondary school.