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## School Immunization Requirement – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Tdap

Date:

Dear Parent or Guardian of \_\_\_\_\_:

In Washington State, the Tdap vaccine is required for school attendance in certain grades. The Tdap is a booster vaccine which continues to protect your child against the tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis diseases they were immunized against as young child. Your scholar must receive the Tdap booster vaccine or have a valid Certificate of Immunization Exemption form on file before they can begin school in September 2021.

In the past, the Tdap booster was required starting at 6<sup>th</sup> grade. As of August 1, 2020 all students attending grade 7 must have had one dose of Tdap vaccine given at or after age 11 to be valid for school entry. The reasoning is to better align with the updated 2019 [national immunization schedule](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html>). The Washington State immunization rule changes can be found at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization/SchoolandChildCare/RuleChanges>

To update your child's Tdap immunization record at the school, you will need to turn in a medically verified immunization record. Current immunization rules do not allow parents to self report immunization dates. You will need to collect one of the following and turn it into the school nurse before the first day of school:

- A completed [Certificate of Immunization Status \(CIS\)](#) signed by a health care provider. Find the CIS form by visiting <https://www.doh.wa.gov/SCCI> and clicking on "Certificate of Immunization Status."
- A CIS filled out and signed by the parent/guardian with medical records attached.
- A CIS printed by a health care provider or school from the Washington State Immunization Information System.
- A CIS printed from [MyIR](#) which is a free Department of Health online tool that allows families to view and print their official immunization records themselves. Go to <https://wa.myir.net/register> to begin the sign-up process.
- A Immigration Immunization Certificate signed by a physician.
- A printout of a Department of Health Immunization form from another state.
- A completed Certificate of Exemption form.

Please sign and date both parent sections of the CIS form. If you have already turned these forms into the school to show your scholar has had the required Tdap vaccine, or your child has a valid exemption on file with their school, you will not need to do anything. Again, if the Tdap vaccine is not completed before the start of school, your scholar will not be allowed to attend until it is completed.

Sincerely, Jessica Crane, BSN, RN

School Nurse

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