



NEW RULE FOR SCHOOL
7th - 12th Graders Need a
Whooping Cough Shot.

7th-12th Grade Requirement

A [new school immunization law](#) requires all students entering 7th through 12th grades in California to be immunized with a pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine booster called Tdap.

Pertussis is a very contagious respiratory disease that can be severe and last for months. The immunity received from either early childhood immunization or pertussis disease wears off over time, leaving older students and adults susceptible again to pertussis. Immunization with Tdap can protect students, schools and communities against pertussis.

Why was the Tdap requirement added?

The new immunization requirement is intended to reduce the spread of whooping cough in California. In recent years the United States has seen an increase in whooping cough. In 2010, California had the most cases of whooping cough reported in over 60 years.

Prior to entering kindergarten, most children are fully protected against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis after receiving the Tdap vaccine in early childhood. However, immunity to these diseases wears off, leaving adolescents vulnerable once again. A booster dose of Tdap during adolescence helps to protect students and their close contacts, including young infants for whom pertussis is most severe and sometimes fatal.

What if a student does not have proof of a Tdap booster shot by the first day of school?

AND

What if a student transferring into a school in California anytime during the school year does not have proof of a Tdap booster shot?

Students who have not completed the Tdap requirement may enroll in school but cannot physically attend classes until the requirement is met.

School staff must exclude from attending classes (entering the class setting) any students in 7th-12th grades who do not have

- proof of receiving a Tdap booster shot on or after the 7th birthday, or
- documentation of an exemption to the law (see below).

This includes students who transfer into 7th-12th grades in California any time during the school year.

Once the student has had the Tdap shot, the student may enter school immediately.

Are there any extensions or grace periods to the Tdap law?

No. There are no extensions or grace periods allowed.