



Iowa Department of Public Health
Promoting and Protecting the Health of Iowans

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Director

Terry E. Branstad
Governor

Kim Reynolds
Lt. Governor

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Dear Immunization Partner,

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Bureau of Immunization, has completed the administrative rules process to require tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine for students enrolling in 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 a one-time booster dose of tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis-containing vaccine for applicants in grades 7 and above, if born on or after September 15, 2000; regardless of the interval since the last tetanus/diphtheria containing vaccine.** The immunization requirements chart from the Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 7, Immunization and Immunization Education is available [here](#).

Pertussis or whooping cough is caused by *Bordetella pertussis* and causes epidemics every three to five years. In 2012, there were 1647 cases of pertussis reported to IDPH, which is approximately 417% more persons with pertussis disease compared to the average of the past five years. The National Immunization Survey (NIS) Teen, 2011 results indicates 74.7% of Iowa adolescents 13-17 years have received the Tdap vaccine. The national average is 78.2%. The secondary school vaccine requirement will help Iowa achieve and maintain high vaccination adolescent coverage levels while reducing the number of pertussis cases occurring annually in Iowa. Previously, Iowa was one of 10 states without a Tdap mandate at the secondary school level.

The Immunization Program has developed a variety of materials regarding the new requirements which are available on the program's webpage [here](#). In addition, the Certificate of Immunization (requirements table on the second page) has been updated to include the new requirement. The updated Certificate of Immunization is available on the Immunization Program webpage and available to order from the Health Protection Clearinghouse by calling 1-888-398-9696 or completing the Immunization Program literature order form at www.idph.state.ia.us/ImmTB/Products.aspx?prog=Imm&pg=Products. Previous versions of the Certificate of Immunization remain valid and student records do not need to be updated to the current version of the certificate. Healthcare providers may continue to use existing supplies of the Certificate of Immunization and then reorder the new document once supplies are depleted.

The mission of the Immunization Program is to decrease vaccine-preventable diseases through education, advocacy, and partnership. The Program is committed to keeping you informed of these changes and looks forward to working with you during the implementation of the new requirement for the upcoming school year. If you have questions regarding this change contact the Immunization Program at 1-800-831-6293.

Sincerely,

Bethany Kintigh RN, BSN
Immunization Program Manger