

May 4, 2010

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Board of Health approved additional vaccine requirements for students beginning in 2007. The vaccine that is required is called Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap).

Pertussis protection received in the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTaP) immunizations received as a child wears off when children are ages eleven to twelve. Although Pertussis in an older child is not usually life threatening, it can cause significant illness in children with asthma and the school exclusion period is 5 days. The most alarming by-product however, is that infants and small children, who might get Pertussis from their school age siblings, can become seriously ill.

All students in grades 6-12 are required to have this immunization to begin the school year 2010-2011.

Your health care provider will be able to help you with any questions that you may have concerning this immunization. Please submit proof of immunization to your school office.

Sincerely,

Paulette Joswick, RN, BSN
Assistant Director of Student Wellness – Health Services
Douglas County School District
303-387-0513

For information on how to receive this vaccine, please contact your health care provider or Tri-County Health Department, 303-663-7650.

Parents who have religious or personal objections to immunizations, or students who have a medical reason for exemption, may sign a form at the student's school. Students who have exemptions will be excluded from school if an outbreak of a specified common disease would occur.