



Tdap NOTICE for PARENTS of INCOMING 7th GRADERS

AB354 Requires Tdap Shot for 7th graders and newly enrolled 8th graders

All students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster immunization (called "Tdap") for school in the Fall. This requirement applies to all public and private schools. The new requirement was signed into law (AB 354) in 2010.

Also required is a second VAR, chickenpox vaccine (if they never had chickenpox disease). This requirement went into effect Fall of 2019.

In 2010, California experienced its worst outbreak of pertussis in more than half a century, with more than 9,000 confirmed cases and 10 infant deaths. The immunization requirement is intended to help reduce the spread of whooping cough among California's youth. Most children are fully protected prior to entering kindergarten because of the DTaP vaccine, a vaccine made for younger children. However, protection to these diseases wears off and pre-teens and teens may be at risk for catching this dangerous disease without a booster.

The Tdap and VAR requirement affects all incoming 7th grade students in California, so it's important to avoid the back-to-school rush and to get your child vaccinated early, before the start of school.

Remember, in addition to the Tdap booster and 2nd VAR, there are several important vaccines recommended for pre- teens and teens, including the meningococcal vaccine and the HPV vaccine series. In addition, everyone older than six months is recommended to receive a seasonal flu vaccine.

Information on the Tdap and VAR requirement, including information on where to get free or low-cost vaccines, forms and frequently asked questions are available at www.ShotsForSchool.org.

Based on article submitted by the California Immunization Coalition, www.immunizeca.org