



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

February 23, 2009

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Participants:

Requirement for Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) for Entry and Attendance in 7th Grade

The Florida Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Immunization would like to remind all immunization partners about the upcoming school immunization requirement effective for the 2009/2010 school year for students entering seventh (7th) grade.

Effective 2009/2010 School Year

Students entering, repeating or transferring into 7th grade will need to provide documentation for the Tdap vaccine. This requirement is in addition to the previous grade-appropriate immunization requirements. Students who received a dose of Td vaccine two to five years prior to entering 7th grade should be given a Temporary Medical Exemption (TME) and immunized at the appropriate time. The timeline for the TME must be no longer than five years from the last tetanus/diphtheria vaccine.

Please note: when there is a risk of exposure to pertussis, a dose of Tdap can be given within two years of receiving a dose of Td vaccine, regardless of a child's TME status.

The Tdap vaccine can be administered to students 10 years of age and above if a prior Td booster dose was given at least two years ago. The recommendations for provision of the Tdap vaccine are in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

In order to assist districts in recording the needed immunization information, the Florida Department of Education (DOE) has updated their electronic system by adding two new codes to the Vaccine Status element: 'P' (Tdap) and 'Q' (Td). You may find the element on the DOE website at: http://www.fldoe.org/eias/dataweb/database_0809/st293_1.pdf.

These codes are optional for 2008/2009 school year, but should be useful as staff prepares for requirements of the 2009/2010 school year. Therefore, for the 2009/2010 school year, only codes 'P' and 'Q' will be acceptable for students entering 7th grade. Please contact Nada Scott at Nada.Scott@fldoe.org if you have any questions about the coding change.

The updated codes will also be reflected in the Florida State Health Online Tracking System (Florida SHOTS), as well as on the updated DOH form, *Florida Certification of Immunization* (DH 680). The Bureau of Immunization will notify providers when the paper version of the updated DH 680 form is available in the State Distribution Center. Providers may elect to order their supply directly from the State Distribution Center for a nominal shipping and handling fee.

Providers can contact the State Distribution Center staff at (850) 414-8086 regarding the process to order the form.

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The CDC's New Combination Tdap/Td Vaccine Information Statement

The CDC has posted a new combination Tdap/Td Vaccine Information Statement (VIS). The new interim VIS dated 11/18/08 can be used for both Tdap and Td vaccines, and replaces the individual Tdap VIS dated 07/12/06 and the Td VIS dated 06/10/94. Providers may still use the older VIS until stocks are used up. The new VIS is enclosed, and can be found on the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm#tdtdap>.

Please remember that the National Childhood Injury (NCVI) Act requires that all healthcare providers give patients, or their parents or legal representatives, a copy of the appropriate VIS *before* administering a vaccine.

You may find the latest information concerning VIS updates on the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/vis-news.htm#all>.

Please widely distribute this information to all staff, colleagues, members, coalitions, and partners with an interest in the administration of the Tdap vaccine. Please contact Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Bureau of Immunization, at (850) 245-4342 if you have any questions regarding the vaccine recommendations or the use of VISs. For information regarding the VFC Program, please contact Robert Griffin, VFC Program Coordinator, or your VFC Program representative at (800) 483-2543.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Charles H. Alexander, Chief
Bureau of Immunization
Division of Disease Control

CHA/rg/sdh
Enclosure

cc: Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Executive Community Health Nursing Director,
Bureau of Immunization
Robert Griffin, VFC Program Coordinator,
Bureau of Immunization
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