



August 12, 2019

Dear School Administrator,

This letter will help to explain the updated Tdap immunization guidelines published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in April 2018: "For persons 7 through 10 years of age who receive a dose of Tdap as part of the catch-up series, an adolescent Tdap vaccine dose should also be administered at 11 through 12 years of age. In addition, for children 7 through 10 years of age who are fully vaccinated, if Tdap is administered inadvertently, the Tdap dose should not be counted as valid. The adolescent Tdap dose should be administered as recommended when this child is 11 through 12 years of age."

Children who were fully vaccinated with DTaP, and received a dose of Tdap at age 10, prior to August 30, 2019, will not be required to be re-vaccinated for Tdap for the 2019-20 school year. Pennsylvania schools will not be expected to exclude children for the 2019-20 school year for Tdap that was administered at age 10.

Going forward, immunization schedules for practices administering Tdap should reflect those recommended from the updated CDC guidelines. Additionally, the adolescent dose should be given at 11-12 years of age. It is expected that providers will update their immunization schedules immediately to reflect the CDC recommendations and to prevent further issues with respect to school immunizations that would affect children's school admissions.

Children entering school year 2020-21 will be expected to have the required Tdap dose at 11-12 years of age. Those not meeting this immunization schedule will risk exclusion from attending school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. McCleaf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Thomas M. McCleaf  
Director, Division of Immunizations  
Pennsylvania Department of Health

Bureau of Communicable Diseases, Division of Immunizations

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