

## New York State Department of Health Tdap Questions and Answers

Q: Is there a difference between DTaP and Tdap?

**A: Yes, the amounts of diphtheria and pertussis in these vaccines are different. Upper-case letters in these abbreviations denote full-strength doses of diphtheria (D) and tetanus (T) toxoids and pertussis (P) vaccines. Lower-case “d” and “p” denote reduced doses of diphtheria and pertussis. DTaP is given to children younger than 7 years of age. Tdap is given to older children and adults.**

Q: For what age ranges are the two Tdap vaccine products, Adacel and Boostrix, licensed?

**A: Adacel is licensed for age 11 through 64 years and Boostrix for age 10 through 18 years.**

Q: If a child receives a dose of Adacel at age 10 instead of Boostrix, is the dose acceptable for school entry/attendance? Should the student receive another dose in 2 years?

**A: Yes, the dose of Adacel will meet the requirements for school entry/attendance, however off-license use of Adacel is not recommended. Adacel is licensed for only one dose, so the student should not receive a second dose in 2 years.**

Q: Is it acceptable if the health care provider does not indicate which Tdap vaccine the student received?

**A: It is recommended that the health care provider indicate which Tdap vaccine the student received, but as long as the immunization record indicates that a Tdap vaccine was given, the requirement for school entry/attendance is met.**

Q: If a student has received the 5 dose series of DTaP, does he/she still need to have a dose of Tdap when entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade?

**A: Yes, the student must receive a booster dose of Tdap to be in compliance with NYS immunization requirements for 6<sup>th</sup> grade entrance/attendance. A booster dose of Tdap is recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) between the ages of 11-12, but can be received as early as 10 years of age.**

Q: Can a school allow students to enter 6<sup>th</sup> grade if they have a documented appointment for a Tdap vaccination?

**A: Yes, students can be allowed to enter school if they have a documented appointment within a reasonable time frame.**

Q: How soon after a student turns 11 should parents of the student provide documentation of a Tdap booster?

**A: Once a student turns 11, he/she is no longer considered in process and must provide documentation of a booster dose of Tdap, or provide proof of an appointment for the booster dose within 14 days.**

Q: If a student receives a dose of Tdap before the age of 10, will he/she need another dose in 2 years?

**A: Tdap is licensed for only 1 dose, so the student will not need another dose of Tdap. Off-license use of Adacel or Boostrix is not recommended.**

Q: If a student receives a dose of DTaP after 7 years of age, is the student required to receive a booster dose of Tdap upon entry into 6<sup>th</sup> grade?

**A: No, the DTaP can count as the booster dose for entry into 6<sup>th</sup> grade. However, if it has been 2 years since the student received the DTaP he or she can receive a Tdap. DTaP should never be given to a child after 7 years of age.**

If you have additional questions, please call Robin Stiles-Tice or David Gonzalez in the NYSDOH Immunization Program at 518-473-4437.