



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

To: Parents/Guardians of students enrolled in Colorado schools  
From: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Immunization Branch  
RE: Tdap vaccine required at 6<sup>th</sup> grade entry

January 9, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

In Colorado, students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade are required to get the tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccine before they start school. See [www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/schoolrequiredvaccines](http://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/schoolrequiredvaccines).

Tetanus is a rare, non-contagious disease that can cause painful muscle tightening and stiffness; people can get tetanus through a cut or wound. Diphtheria is a rare, contagious disease that can cause breathing problems, heart failure, and other serious issues. Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a very contagious disease that can cause severe coughing spells, difficulty breathing, and other serious issues, especially in infants, toddlers, and other people who have weakened immune systems. Adolescents who get pertussis can be sick for up to three months.

A Tdap dose administered at 10 years of age counts as the adolescent Tdap dose and meets Colorado's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Tdap requirement: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/dtap.html>

If your student does not receive Tdap vaccine and does not meet Colorado's 6<sup>th</sup> grade Tdap requirement, a Certificate of Medical Exemption or an annual Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption must be submitted to the school: [www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption](http://www.colorado.gov/vaccineexemption). This will assure that your student is in compliance with the Colorado school immunization law and be allowed to attend school.

For questions or more information, contact [cdphe.dcdimmunization@state.co.us](mailto:cdphe.dcdimmunization@state.co.us).

