



COLORADO

Department of Public Health & Environment

Tdap vaccine requirement for sixth-grade school entry

Colorado law [requires](#) students who are 10 or 11 years of age and entering sixth grade to receive a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) vaccine before the start of the school year.

The [Colorado Board of Health Rule](#) aligns with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) [immunization schedule](#). While Tdap vaccine is typically given at age 11 for students entering sixth grade, it may also be given at 10 years of age. This is [allowed by CDC](#). A Tdap dose given at age 10 will 1) count as a valid adolescent Tdap dose and 2) meet Colorado's sixth grade Tdap school vaccine requirement.

Per Colorado law, prior to school entry, the student's parent/guardian is responsible for submitting a student's school-required vaccine records. If these are not submitted to the school, the student's parent/guardian is responsible for submitting a Certificate of [Medical](#) or [Nonmedical](#) Exemption in order for their student to attend school. Refer to this [CDC web page](#) for definitions of medical contraindications to vaccines.

Immunizations are the best protection against vaccine-preventable diseases. Access the following resources to support children and adolescents in staying current or catching up with their routine vaccines, including Tdap and DTaP.

Routinely timed vaccines:

- [Child and adolescent immunization schedule](#) (CDC)

Catch up guidance:

- [Children and adolescents 10 through 18 years of age](#) (PDF)
- [Children and adolescents who start late or are >1 month behind](#) (CDC)

The Colorado Immunization Branch provides access to a nurse consultant who can address vaccine-related questions. Please call CDPHE at 303-692-2700, Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and ask for the School and Child Care Nurse Consultant who can address your school-required vaccines questions or email cdphe_vacs@state.co.us.