

OCTOBER 15 is the deadline for having your child receive the Tdap vaccine.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

You know that keeping up with immunizations is just as important for your child as it was when he or she was little. But you may not know that this year your child must be immunized to remain in school.

The Illinois State Board of Education has recently mandated that all students in grades 6-12 receive one Tdap vaccination against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. All students must show proof of having received this vaccination, must have an appointment to get the vaccine, or have an approved medical or religious exemption on file by October 15, 2013, or they will be subject to exclusion from school until they meet the requirement. Even 6th and 9th grade students who received the Tdap vaccine last year or earlier need to show proof of having received the vaccine previously.

To help you meet this requirement, Walgreens pharmacies and Healthcare Clinics at select Walgreens offer the Tdap vaccine with no appointment necessary, making it easier than ever for you to get your child immunized before the October 15 deadline. Walgreens immunization-trained pharmacists and Healthcare Clinic board-certified family nurse practitioners will administer the Tdap vaccine anytime the pharmacy or clinic is open, and most health insurance is accepted. In addition, your Walgreens pharmacist can conduct an immunization assessment to help assure that your child's immunizations are all up-to-date, and your child can receive all recommended vaccines that same day.

What vaccines are recommended for adolescents? In addition to the Tdap vaccine, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends immunization against meningococcal disease, HPV infection, and influenza.

- **Meningococcal disease**, or meningitis, is a bacterial infection that, while rare, can lead to death in as little as 24 hours from the start of symptoms. It can also cause hearing loss, brain damage, and learning disabilities — and it spreads fast.
- **HPV** (human papillomavirus) is the most common sexually transmitted virus in the U.S. Although its effects predominate in females between ages 15 and 24, it can affect both males and females, and the CDC recommends that everyone between ages 11 and 26 should be vaccinated.
- **Influenza**, or "the flu," can cause serious respiratory symptoms, taking students out of school for a week or more. New strains of flu virus appear every year, which means that flu vaccinations should occur annually. In addition to the standard flu vaccine, all Walgreens locations also have the needle-free nasal-spray flu vaccine available.

Your child has been learning about the importance of these immunizations in school. If you need more information about Walgreens immunization services, please visit walgreens.com/gobackhealthy, or talk to your local pharmacist or Healthcare Clinic nurse practitioner.

Information does not constitute medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Vaccine subject to availability. Restrictions may apply. See pharmacy or clinic for details.

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