



**Monarch Learning Center**  
**California Public Charter School #307**  
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February 10, 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

A new California law now requires students to be vaccinated against pertussis cough. All students will need proof of a tetanus/pertussis booster shot (Tdap) before they are allowed to start school next fall. Please read the following information from the California Department of Public Health.

For the 2011-2012 school year only, all students entering 7th through 12th grades will need proof of an adolescent pertussis/tetanus booster shot (Tdap) before starting school. Thereafter, in future school years, only students entering 7th grade will need proof of the Tdap before starting school. **By law, students who do not have proof of receiving a Tdap booster shot will not be able to start school until proof is provided to the school.** (The tetanus-diphtheria booster shot, Td, will not meet the requirement).

We want to make sure your child starts school on time. I urge you to:

**1. Review the flyer: What Parents Need to Know - Frequently asked Questions.**

**2. Get your child's Tdap shot now.**

The entire State of California is under this law and a large number of students need a Tdap shot between now and the start of school next year. Make an appointment with your child's doctor or call Shasta County Health Dept at 225-5591 for your child to get the booster shot now. Avoid the back-to-school rush.

**3. Save your proof of immunization.**

Be sure to keep the written proof of your child's Tdap booster shot in a safe place. The office will need a copy for their records. Bring your written proof of immunization to the school and beat the rush before the school year ends. Your child will need to provide proof in order to start school in August.

Please contact the school at 247-7307 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Kara Jones, School Nurse

Gwen Wells & Chris Johnson, Directors



## Monarch Learning Center



ALL 7<sup>TH</sup> – 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENTS WILL NEED PROOF OF A  
Tdap BOOSTER SHOT BEFORE THEY ARE ALLOWED TO  
START SCHOOL NEXT FALL

### **Where to go for Tdap Immunizations**

**Insured Students** – Please make an appointment with your **Family Doctor** as there may be additional immunizations that you should have prior to college. You may also check with **Local Pharmacies** such as Safeway or Walgreens, as they also provide some immunizations for children 10 years old or older.

**Uninsured Students** – See Shasta County Public Health Clinic hours below.

#### **Shasta County Public Health Clinic**

2640 Breslaur Way  
Redding, CA 96001  
(530) 225-5591

#### **CLINIC HOURS:**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday: 8:00–11:00 AM

Monday & Wednesday: 1:00-4:30 PM

Tuesday & Friday: 8:00-11:00 only

Thursday evening: 4:00-6:30 PM



# Monarch Learning Center



## **AB 354: The New 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade California Immunization Law**

California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch

### **What PARENTS Need To Know**

#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is the new Tdap requirement for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders?**

Starting July 2011, a new law (AB 354) changing California immunization requirements for all students entering 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades goes into effect. The law requires:

- This coming school year (2011-2012), all students entering into 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grades will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough booster shot (called "Tdap") before starting school.
- For the next school year (2012-13) and future school years, all students entering into 7<sup>th</sup> grade only will need proof of a Tdap shot to start school.

#### **Do ALL 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students need to get the "Tdap" shot?**

Yes. For this coming school year (2011 – 2012 school year), all students going into 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades must have proof of having had the Tdap booster shot before starting school. This includes current students, new students and transfer students in both public and private schools. Beginning the year after (2012 – 2013 school year), the law will only affect 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Limited exemptions are allowed.

#### **What is Tdap?**

Tdap is a booster vaccine for older children, adolescents, and adults. It safely protects against 3 dangerous diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough (also called pertussis).

#### **Why was the Tdap requirement added?**

This new requirement will help protect your child and others in your school and community from whooping cough. Whooping cough is a serious disease that causes coughing fits that can last for months. It can be deadly for infants. In recent years, whooping cough has been increasing in the United States. In 2010, whooping cough was widespread in California.

#### **What are the diseases tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough (pertussis)?**

- Tetanus – (also called lockjaw) causes painful tightening of the muscles. It can lead to "locking" of the jaw so the person cannot open his/her mouth or swallow.
- Diphtheria – is a throat infection that can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure and death.
- Whooping cough – (also called pertussis) is a contagious disease that causes violent coughing fits that make it hard to breathe. It spreads easily when someone with the disease coughs or sneezes. Symptoms can last for months. Whooping cough is very dangerous for young babies.

#### **When should my child get vaccinated?**

Now. A large number of students need a Tdap shot before the start of school next year. Avoid the rush and make sure your child can start school on time. Make an appointment for your incoming 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grader to get a Tdap booster shot now.

Children as young as 10 years old are recommended to get vaccinated with Tdap. This will protect them against the ongoing threat of whooping cough and will meet the Tdap school requirement for when they are in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Keep documentation of your child's Tdap booster shot in a safe place. Your child will need proof of immunization in order to start school.



# Monarch Learning Center



## **What if my child has had whooping cough recently or in the past?**

Your child will still need a Tdap booster shot. Immunity developed after having whooping cough disease wears off, leaving your child at risk for getting whooping cough again. A Tdap booster shot is needed to both protect your child in the future and to meet the school requirement.

## **Why should my child get vaccinated?**

In addition to it being a new requirement for starting school, children who get a Tdap booster shot will be better protected during their school years. Immunization also helps to protect others within the home, in the community, and at school.

Immunizations help to prevent school closures. Many schools in California have suffered from outbreaks of whooping cough. Students got very sick and parents missed work and lost wages to care for their sick children. In some cases, schools had to close because there were not enough healthy teachers to keep schools open.

## **Where can my child get vaccinated?**

Children should visit their regular doctor or health care provider to get their Tdap shot. Children 18 years old and younger who are uninsured or underinsured may qualify for the Vaccines for Children Program. To find a provider near you, call 1-877-243-8832 or visit: [www.eziz.org/pages/vfc\\_locations2.html](http://www.eziz.org/pages/vfc_locations2.html). Some local pharmacies and Health Departments may also offer the Tdap vaccine.

## **What if my child does not have proof of a Tdap shot before school starts?**

He/She may not start school. Any student who does not have proof of getting a Tdap booster shot will not be allowed to start school until proof of immunization is given to the school.

## **Are immunization exemptions allowed under California law?**

The same exemptions for children entering kindergarten apply.

For more information, visit the [Immunization Law](http://www.shotsforschool.org) page at [www.shotsforschool.org](http://www.shotsforschool.org).

## **What if my child has received a Tdap booster shot before 10 years of age?**

Your child will be considered to have met the new school requirement with proof of getting a dose of Tdap on or after their 7th birthday. However, we recommend that children receive Tdap on or after their 10th birthday to provide better protection throughout their adolescent years.

## **What other immunizations should I consider for my child?**

Preteens and teens are also recommended to receive vaccines against meningococcal disease (brain or blood infection), flu (influenza), HPV (human papillomavirus, a cause of cervical cancer), and any vaccine they may have missed during childhood. The recommended vaccine schedule may be found at [www.getimmunizedca.org](http://www.getimmunizedca.org).

Talk with your healthcare provider for more information.

## **Should parents and others at home get the Tdap vaccine?**

All persons 10 years and older are recommended to be vaccinated with Tdap now if they haven't done so to protect them against the ongoing threat of pertussis. Immunization also helps to protect close contacts,

including young infants for whom pertussis is most severe and sometimes fatal.

## **Where can I go for more information?**

For more information, visit the California Department of Public Health, Immunization Branch website at <http://www.getimmunizedca.org>.