

Section 665.240 Basic Immunization

- a) Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus
 - 1) Any child two years of age or older entering a school program (defined as nursery schools, pre-school programs, early childhood programs, Head Start, or other pre-kindergarten child care programs offered or operated by a school or school district) shall show proof (see Section 665.250(b)) of having received four or more doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP or DTaP) vaccine. The first three doses in the series shall have been received no less than four weeks (28 days) apart. The interval between the third and fourth or final dose shall be at least six months.
 - 2) Any child entering kindergarten or first grade for the first time shall show proof (see Section 665.250(b)) of having received four or more doses of Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP or DTaP) vaccine, with the last dose being a booster and having been received on or after the fourth birthday. The first three doses in the series shall have been received no less than four weeks (28 days) apart. The interval between the third and fourth or final dose shall be at least six months. Children 6 years of age and older may receive Tetanus, Diphtheria (Td) vaccine in lieu of DTP or DTaP vaccine.
 - 3) Any child entering school at a grade level not included in subsection (a)(1) or (2) of this Section shall show proof (see Section 665.250(b)) of receiving three or more doses of DTP, DTaP, pediatric DT or adult Tetanus, Diphtheria (Td) with the last dose being a booster and having been received on or after the fourth birthday. The first two doses in the series shall have been received no less than four weeks (28 days) apart. The interval between the second and third or final doses shall be at least six months.
 - 4) Receipt of pediatric Diphtheria Tetanus (DT) vaccine in lieu of DTP or DTaP is acceptable only if the pertussis component of the vaccine is medically contraindicated. Documentation of the medical contraindication shall be verified as specified in Section 665.520.
 - 5) Beginning with school year 2011-12, any child entering sixth grade shall show proof (see Section 665.250(b)) of receiving one dose of Tdap (defined as tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccine regardless of the interval since the last DTaP, DT or Td dose.
 - 6) Students entering grades seven through 12 who have not already received Tdap are required to receive 1 Tdap dose regardless of the interval since the last DTaP, DT or Td dose.

What's the Difference Between DTaP and Tdap?

Both vaccines contain inactivated forms of the toxin produced by the bacteria that cause the three diseases. Inactivated means the substance no longer produces disease, but does trigger the body to create antibodies that give it immunity against the toxins. DTaP is approved for children under 7. Tdap, which has a reduced dose of the diphtheria and pertussis vaccines, is approved for adolescents starting at the age of 11 or 12 and adults ages 19 to 64.

Here's a hint to help you remember. The pediatric formulations usually have 3-5 times as much of the diphtheria component than what is in the adult formulation. This is indicated by an upper-case "D" for the pediatric formulation (i.e., DTaP, DT) and a lower case "d" for the adult formulation (Tdap, Td). The amount of tetanus toxoid in each of the products is equivalent, so it remains an upper-case "T."