

From the school nurses: Why Tdap boosters are required

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The state of Wisconsin requires a Tdap booster for students in grades six to 12.

What is Tdap?

Tdap is the adolescent combination vaccine that protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).

Why is the booster required?

From 1986 through 2004, WI had the fifth-highest rate of pertussis in the nation, with almost 5,000 cases being reported in 2004 alone. Pertussis outbreaks occur because protection declines five to 10 years after completion of the childhood DTP/DTaP vaccinations.

Do people get whooping cough here?

In November the Sheboygan County Division of Public Health received two reports of laboratory-confirmed pertussis. The first case involved an unimmunized toddler. The second was a college student who had contact with the toddler.

Where can I learn more?

Recommendations for Tdap are made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Additional information regarding pertussis is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis>