



A Note From Allen High School:

Dear Parents and Guardians:

There have been some recent guideline changes in immunization requirements. For all children entering the 7th grade for the 2016-2017 school year, proof of receiving a new vaccination of Tdap will be required. This is a booster for Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis. Up until recently, a child was only required to have received 4-5 doses of the DTaP vaccination before Pre-K or Kindergarten, depending on the child's age at time of vaccination. However, a booster of the Tdap vaccine is now being required for all incoming 7th graders, in an effort to curb the steadily rising rate of pertussis (whooping cough).

Why the changes? You may have visited our school website or watched on TV about the rising occurrence of pertussis, or whooping cough, in the US. Studies have shown that immunity begins to decline about 5-6 years after the last dose of the pertussis vaccine is administered. Because this disease is highly contagious and can prove to be fatal to infants, it is recommended that a booster be given to ages 11-64, especially to those who are in contact with or around infants or babies. In the beginning stages, pertussis mimics the common cold, and that is when the affected person is the most contagious.

Therefore, before your child enters the 7th grade for the 2015-2016 school year, verification of receiving the Tdap vaccine will be required. You may take your child to the health department to receive the vaccine. Please don't hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Thank You

For more information visit these helpful web sites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/about/index.html>

www.ok.gov/health key search word: pertussis