

Immunization Information

Immunization has proven to be the most effective way to control the spread of diseases that can be prevented. Washington State law (RCW 210.080) requires that all students be properly immunized in order to attend or continue attending school. All students must also have a signed Certificate of Immunization Status form on file.

The Washougal School District is committed to providing a healthy, safe environment for all students. Students who do not receive the required immunizations or provide exemption information will be excluded from school starting on October 15, 2012.

The attached 2011-2012 Immunization Notice states the vaccines that are required by state law for attendance in each grade. School staff are currently reviewing each student's record or Certificate of Immunization Status. **Parents of students with missing information will be notified by their school before February 15.**

Special note for parents of students in 5th-10th grades:

All children attending 6th grade must show proof of:

- **Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap)** vaccination if he/she is **11 years old** and it has been **five years** since he/she received a tetanus-containing vaccine, like DTaP or a tetanus-diphtheria (Td) booster.

All students currently in 5th grade will need to receive the Tdap vaccination prior to starting 6th grade.

If your child is in grades 6-10 and they have not received this vaccination, he/she will need to do so as soon as possible. Students who do not receive the required immunizations or provide exemption information will be excluded from school starting on October 15, 2012.

Tdap Vaccine and Disease Information

The Tdap vaccine protects teens against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). The vaccine is recommended for all children 11 years and older. Tdap should replace one tetanus booster for everyone aged 11-64.

Pertussis is a very serious disease that causes mild to severe coughing spells that can last for months. The coughing spells can make it hard to eat, drink, and even breathe. Pertussis can also cause pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death. It's important that pre-teens (and adults) get the Tdap vaccine because they can easily spread pertussis to friends and family members, such as babies and younger siblings who are more likely to suffer severe complications if they get pertussis.