



**FROM:** Communicable Disease Prevention Unit  
San Francisco Department of Public Health

**DATE:** December 20, 2010

**Please Read and Post**

## **New California Tdap Law Get Started NOW**

**NOW** is the time to start immunizing all of your adolescent patients age 10 and over with Tdap. Take advantage of the visits you are getting from children during these winter months to vaccinate with Tdap. Children entering grades 7 – 12 in the fall of 2011 must show proof of Tdap vaccination or risk being denied entrance to school. There will be no grace period for school entry.

This new law (AB 354) goes into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011. We estimate there are 25,000 adolescents in SF who must be immunized before the end of summer.

Avoid the summer rush – start bringing these patients in for their shot now. Try some, or all, of these suggestions:

- Use your reminder/recall system
- Send an automated phone message to parents of teens telling them to bring their child into the office (script available in English and Spanish at [http://eziz.org/resources/materials\\_pertussis.html](http://eziz.org/resources/materials_pertussis.html))
- Include a reminder to come in for a Tdap shot as part of your office's outgoing message
- Make sure all office staff are fully aware of this new law
- Utilize all opportunities to vaccinate a patient with Tdap, i.e. when patient comes in with a sprain, a head cold, or acne appointment
- Double check your vaccine supply; order appropriately (including other adolescent vaccines: Meningococcal, Varicella dose 2, HPV and influenza)

Be sure to give written proof of Tdap vaccination and remind parents that they will be required to show it to the school.

Public and private schools have started communicating to parents and students "Go see your doctor and get vaccinated". Be prepared. Please call us at 415-554-2830 with any questions about this new law or its implementation.

*Happy Holidays from CDPH!*



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