



Monica Cain, District Nurse
Bayside Middle School
601 E Ellsworth Lane
Bayside, WI 53217
414-247-4226

Vaccine Requirements for Students in Middle School

Parents of rising 7th grade students:

The Wisconsin Student Immunization law requires that all students entering the 7th grade receive a dose of Tdap vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) and a dose of the MenACWY vaccine (meningococcal ACWY-containing vaccine). To be compliant with the school law, parents must provide their child's school with proof of immunization or claim a waiver.

1. What grades are affected and what vaccines are required?

For the 2026-27 school year, the following is required:

Students entering

Grade 7

Vaccine(s)

Tdap (1 dose)

MenACWY (1 dose)

2. What do parents need to do?

Have your child vaccinated with Tdap and MenACWY vaccine if he or she has not already received the vaccine, prior to the start of the next school year. Be sure to add the Tdap and MenACWY vaccination dates to the permanent immunization record you keep for your child. In the future, your child may need to give these dates to other schools, colleges or employers.

Once your child has received the Tdap and MenACWY vaccines, provide that date(s) to the school health office. To claim a waiver for health, religious or personal conviction reasons, follow the instructions on the Student Immunization Record (available in the school health office and on the district website) and return the signed form to school. The vaccine record or waiver should be provided prior to the start of the next school year.

3. Are there exceptions to the Tdap vaccine requirements?

Yes. If your child had received a tetanus-containing vaccine (such as Td vaccine) in the five years before entering the grade it is required, your child is compliant and Tdap vaccine is not required. Check the box marked "Td" on the Student Immunization Record, enter the date it was received and return the signed form to school.

4. If my child meets the Tdap requirement will he or she need to get another dose in a different grade in school?

No, Tdap is a one-time requirement. It is recommended that adults receive a Tdap booster every 10 years and in certain other situations.

5. If my child already had pertussis (whooping cough) disease, should he or she still get the Tdap vaccine?

A history of pertussis disease is not an exception to the Tdap requirement. Children who have had pertussis should still receive Tdap because the length of protection provided by the disease is unknown and because the diagnosis can be difficult to confirm in some instances.

6. What is the MenACWY vaccine?

The MenACWY is the best defense against bacterial meningitis caused by 4 different strains of the bacteria. Bacterial meningitis is a rare but potentially fatal infection that can potentially be transmitted through close contact with an infected person through direct contact with respiratory and/or oral secretions from an infected person (for example, through sharing drinking containers or kissing). Teenagers and college students are at increased risk for meningococcal disease compared to the general population.

7. Will my child need another dose of the MenACWY vaccine?

It is recommended that individuals receive a dose of the MenACWY vaccine prior to entering 7th grade and a booster dose prior to entering 12th grade.

8. Where can I get the Tdap and/or MenACWY vaccine for my child?

These vaccines are available from your child's medical provider, local health department and some pharmacies. Check with your insurance provider to ensure that the site you select is covered.

9. Why are these requirements being made?

- Pertussis is a serious disease. It is easily passed from person-to-person and can cause outbreaks in schools. Wisconsin has experienced two state-wide pertussis outbreaks in the past 10 years. Studies have shown that the protection gained from the DTP/DTaP vaccines received as a young child begins to decline 5 to 10 years after vaccination; the Tdap vaccine will boost immunity and help protect your adolescent from pertussis.
- Tetanus is a bacteria that can enter the body through cuts or wounds. It is commonly found in soil, dust, or manure. It causes severe muscle spasms that can lead to respiratory compromise, prolonged recovery period, or death.
- Diphtheria is an infection of the respiratory tract that causes swelling in the throat, paralysis, and potentially death. Prior to the introduction of the vaccine, it was a leading cause of death in children.
- Bacterial meningitis is a rare but potentially fatal infection that can progress quickly and cause death or permanent disability.

10. Are there any other vaccines that are recommended for my adolescent?

Yes. There are other vaccines that are routinely recommended for teens. The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine protects against a virus that is a common cause of cancer. An annual influenza vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. COVID-19 booster doses are frequently also available.

9. Where can I get more information?

- Center for Disease Control (CDC):
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/pertussis/>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/tetanus/index.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/diphtheria/index.html>
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html>
- Wisconsin Immunization Program
 - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/immunization/index.htm>
- Your child's primary health care provider or local health department
 - <https://www.nshealthdept.org/immunizations.aspx>
- Student Immunization Record
 - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/f04020l.pdf>
- WI student immunization requirements
 - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p44021.pdf>

Thank you for your attention to this important information!

Monica Cain, RN, BSN
District Nurse
(414)247-4226
mcain@foxbay.org