

AB 354: The New 7th - 12th Grade California Immunization Law

Starting July 2011 a new law (AB 354) changing California immunization requirements for all students entering 7th – 12th grades. The “Tdap” immunization booster will be required. The “Tdap” booster vaccine is for older children, adolescents and adults. It safely protects against 3 diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, and whooping cough (also called pertussis).

For the 2011-12 school year, all Desert Christian Academy students (current, new or transfer) entering 7th through 12th grade will need proof of an adolescent whooping cough – “Tdap” immunization booster before starting school. These requirements are:

- ▶ **One dose of Tdap immunization on or after the 10th birthday**
- ▶ **Parents must bring proof of recent Tdap immunization to their child’s school site. The child will not receive a registration packet and/or an academic schedule for the 2011-12 school year until proof of Tdap immunization is presented**
- ▶ **The student will not be allowed to start school unless the immunization requirement is met**

Please contact your private physician or the Riverside County Public Health Department Immunization Clinic (760-863-8283) to expedite the Tdap booster immunization requirement for your child and not delay the start of your child’s 2011-2012 school year.

Beginning July 1, 2012, and beyond, all students entering 7th grade will need proof of a Tdap immunization booster before starting school.

Website Links:

California Department of Public Health www.cdph.ca.gov

Center for Disease Control www.cdc.gov

Riverside County Office of Public Health www.rivcoph.org