

# Tdap FAQ's

1. What is Tdap?
  - Vaccine to protect against Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (whooping cough)
  - Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis are all caused by bacteria.
  - Diphtheria and Pertussis are spread from person to person.
  - Tetanus enters the body through cuts, scratches, or wounds.
2. What are the 2 different Tdap products?
  - Boostrix and Adacel
  - Boostrix is for 10-18 year olds
  - Adacel is for 11-64 year olds
3. If a child has received one of the following tetanus containing vaccines within the last 5 years they are compliant and will not need the Tdap booster:
  - Tdap
  - Td
  - DT
  - Dtap
4. What date should we assess to see if it has been within 5 years since their tetanus containing vaccine (see number 3)?
  - Year round schools must have had their tetanus containing vaccine between July 7, 2004- July 7, 2009.
  - Traditional schools must have had their tetanus containing vaccine between August 25, 2004- August 25, 2009.
5. What if the child is repeating the 6<sup>th</sup> grade this year?
  - If the child was living in NC, the child should have received the Tdap booster last year. They will not be required to receive another dose.
  - Check the child's record, they must have received a Tdap booster or a tetanus containing vaccine within the last 5 years.
6. What if their doctor's office did not give them a Tdap because they were not 11 years old yet?
  - Some doctor's offices only carry one Tdap product. If they do not give a Tdap, the child must be referred to the local health department or find other means to receive the booster.
  - The Tdap requirement is not about age, but about 6<sup>th</sup> grade entry.
7. What exemptions are accepted?
  - Religious or medical exemptions only
  - Medical exemptions must be applied for through the State Health Director.
  - Religious exemptions must have a statement letter from the parent or guardian stating they want to be exempted from vaccine administration due to religious beliefs.
8. Are appointment cards accepted?
  - Appointment cards after the suspension or exclusion date will no longer be accepted. All children must provide documentation of receiving the Tdap booster prior to the suspension/exclusion date.