

# FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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**DPS:** 03-019

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District School Superintendents

**FROM:** Betty Coxe *BC*

**DATE:** August 12, 2002

**SUBJECT: NATIONAL TETANUS AND DIPHTHERIA (TD) SHORTAGE AND TD SEVENTH GRADE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT UPDATE**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, based on information from the manufacturer, anticipates that the Td supply is now sufficient to return to the routine schedule as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). The attached memorandum from the Florida Department of Health includes updated recommendations from the ACIP for administration of tetanus diphtheria (Td) vaccine.

The Florida Department of Education continues to work with the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization, to monitor the situation and maintain open communication as changes occur. The Department of Health memorandum recommends an incremental return to the routine Td immunization schedule. **Please note that Td vaccine is now recommended for all students who are either entering or attending seventh grade or when their Temporary Medical Exemption (TME) expires.**

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We encourage school district and designated school staff to continue to work closely with the county health department to facilitate parent and student compliance with immunization requirements. Recall of students whose TMEs have not expired is not recommended at this time. However, during the 2002-2003 school year, the recall of students with extended TMEs will be revisited, as sufficient Td vaccine becomes available.

If you have questions or comments regarding the school immunization requirements, please contact Phyllis Yambor, Department of Health, at (850) 245-4342 (SunCom 205-4342) or Dianne Mennitt at (850) 922-3727 (SunCom 292-3727).

BC:dmo

Attachment

cc: Student Services Directors  
School Health Services Coordinators  
Dropout Prevention Coordinators  
Student Data Base Contacts  
MIS Directors  
Charles Alexander, Chief, Bureau of Immunization

**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** July 8, 2002

**TO:** County Health Department Directors/Administrators

**FROM:** Bonita J. Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A.  
Deputy State Health Officer

**SUBJECT:** National Tetanus and Diphtheria (Td) Shortage and Td Seventh Grade Immunization Requirement

**ACTION**

**REQUIRED:** Utilize new recommendations. **Effective Immediately**

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This is a follow-up to the January 16, 2002, memorandum sent to county health departments regarding the national shortage of tetanus diphtheria (Td) vaccine. Based on information from the manufacturer, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention anticipates that the Td supply is now sufficient to return to the routine schedule as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Attached is a copy of the recommendations, *Notice to Readers: Resumption of Routine Schedule for Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids, June 21, 2002/51 (24); 529-530*. The recommendations can be found on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5124a5.htm>

All persons involved with the administration of immunizations and/or disease surveillance should read and become familiar with these recommendations.

While optimistic, the Department of Health recommends an incremental return to the routine Td immunization schedule. The following recommendations for the use of Td vaccine should be employed in order to minimize the burden on parents, schools, private health care providers, and county health department personnel.

- Continue to administer Td vaccine to all persons presenting for wound management.
- Administer Td vaccine to all persons presenting for routine boosters or school immunization requirements—students who are either entering/attending 7<sup>th</sup> grade or whose Temporary Medical Exemptions (TMEs) have expired.
- Immunize students with Td vaccine as their TMEs expire throughout the 2002/2003 school year.
- Do not issue any new TMEs or extend any expired TMEs for Td vaccine.

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- Do not recall any students whose TMEs have not expired. The recall of students will be revisited prior to the end of 2002 as sufficient Td vaccine becomes available.

In order to implement these recommendations, county health departments are automatically being shipped a two-month supply of Td vaccine minus current inventory. Beginning in August, county health departments should resume ordering a two-month supply of Td minus inventory.

The Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization recognizes the negative impact that the vaccine shortage has had on the county health departments, private health care providers, and schools and wants to thank everyone involved with immunizations for their patience. The immunization program will continue to monitor the situation and maintain open communication as the vaccine supply normalizes. Td for wound care should continue to be administered according to ACIP recommendations.

Should you have questions about the Td vaccine supply, please contact David Miller at (850) 245-4342, or SunCom 205-4342. If you have questions regarding the school immunization requirement, please contact Phyllis Yambor at (850) 245-4342, or SunCom 205-4342.

BJS/pey

cc: Mary Jo Butler, Program Director, Intervention and Prevention Services  
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Bureau of Immunization Field Staff