

All students 11 and older entering the sixth grade in Alabama schools must have a tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. Each pupil 11 or older who enters the sixth grade will be required to have a new certificate of immunization. This is because of the change from tetanus-diphtheria (Td) to (Tdap) vaccine. The Tdap vaccine will protect adolescents from pertussis and keep them from spreading disease to siblings, other family members and other students.

Please be advised that students who do not have updated immunization records as required by the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) at the beginning of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade year will not receive course selection verifications until that requirement has been met.

**Be sure to obtain a new blue certificate of immunization from your Doctor at the time of the update. The new immunization record must include all previous immunizations plus any new immunizations given and a current expiration date. This new form should then be brought to the School Nurse at your current school or to Simmons Middle School during the Summer.**

You may contact the Jefferson County Dept of Health at 205-930-1450 for information regarding free immunizations for children 18 years of age and younger.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Nicole Epperson, RN  
School Nurse