

**“BACK TO SCHOOL” VACCINE UPDATE**  
**BY**  
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Another long hot Arizona summer has gone by and schools have reopened or will be shortly. Along with school supplies, you also need to check your child’s immunization records to ensure that they are up to date on the latest vaccine requirements.

1. **Kindergarten:** Children entering need proof of the **Chickenpox (Varicella)** vaccine or a history of having had chickenpox. This is in addition to the usual vaccines previously required for kindergarten entry (i.e., 5 doses of DtaP, 4 doses of IPV, 2 doses of MMR, and 2 doses of Hepatitis A).
  
2. **Tetanus and Whooping Cough Booster (Tdap) for Adolescents:**  
A Tetanus booster is normally recommended after age 11 years. The vaccine previously used was dT (Tetanus booster combined with a small dose of the Diphtheria vaccine).  
There are 2 new FDA approved vaccines which provide **combined immunity** against Tetanus and Whooping cough. Arizona is currently experiencing an outbreak of whooping cough and many cases are in adolescents and adults.  
The vaccines are:  
**BOOSTRIX:** Recommended for ages 10-18 years.  
**ADACEL:** Recommended for ages 11-55 years  
Children 10 years and older who have not received their Tetanus booster should get the new Tdap vaccine.  
Children 11 years and older who have previously received the dT vaccine can receive the new Tdap vaccine after 5 years. However, since AZ is currently experiencing a whooping cough outbreak, this interval can be shortened to 2 years at the physician’s discretion. ***This is especially important if the adolescent is living in a home with an infant under the age of 1 year.***
  
3. **Meningococcal Vaccine for Preadolescents and Teenagers:**  
A new vaccine against bacterial (meningococcal) meningitis called **MENACTRA** was FDA approved in March 2005. Current recommendations for Menactra are:
  - Preadolescents (11-12 year old children)
  - High school entry (15 years)
  - College freshmen in dormitories

Please contact your Pediatrician or Family Physician for further information regarding these new vaccines.

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