



Polk County Health Department Immunization Q & A



Question:

An incoming Kindergarten student must have a dose of DTaP and IPV on or after the age of 4, does the MMR and Varicella need to be on or after the age of 4 as well?

Answer:

The second dose of MMR and Varicella do not have to be on or after the age of 4 to be considered valid. The **recommended schedule** is for the student to receive a dose on or after the age of 4, but as long as there is at least 28 days between dose #1 and dose #2 and any other live vaccine, they can be counted as valid.

Question:

What is the minimum interval spacing for Varicella and is there a difference depending on the age of the child/student?

Answer:

If the child/student is under the age of 13, the recommended minimum spacing is 3 months between doses, but for the purposes of auditing or determining the validity of the second dose, as long as there is at least 28 days between dose #1 and dose #2 and any other live vaccine, it can be considered valid. This is the exception, not the rule. Children/students should not be sent early for their 2nd dose.

If a student is 13 or older, as long as there is at least 28 days between dose #1 and dose #2 and any other live vaccine, it is valid.

Question:

I have a student that was born on 6/5/04, and will be in 7th grade in the fall. They had a dose of Td on 8/4/15. Does this Td count toward the **Tdap** required for 7th grade entry?

Answer:

No. The **Td** vaccine does not contain any Pertussis protection.

Tdap T=Tetanus d=Diphtheria p=Pertussis (a - indicates this is an **acellular** vaccine)

This requirement is to help protect your children and others in schools and the community from whooping cough. Whooping cough is a serious disease that causes coughing fits that can last for months. In recent years, whooping cough has been increasing in the United States and in Iowa. In 2012, whooping cough has been widespread in Iowa with approximately 417% more persons with Pertussis disease compared to the average of the past five years.

See posted document titled **Tdap School Requirement Q&A** that was put together by IDPH for additional frequently asked questions.