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<http://www.epi.hss.state.ak.us>

Return to Routine Schedule for Td Vaccine

In July 2001 the Section of Epidemiology announced that Td vaccine shortages necessitated a temporary deferral of Td booster recommendations and suspension of the Td booster requirement for students in school.¹

The supply of adult tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td) in the United States is now sufficient to permit the resumption of the routine schedule for Td use as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.²

ROUTINE TD VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Adult Td is the vaccine of choice for routine vaccination of persons 7 years of age and older, per the following schedule.

Routine Td Immunization Schedule for Persons ≥7 Years of Age Who Have Not Received a Primary Series of 3 Doses

Dose	Interval
Primary 1	---
Primary 2	4 weeks
Primary 3	6-12 months
Booster dose every 10 years*	

* The 1st booster dose may be given at 11-12 years of age, if at least 5 years have elapsed since the last dose of DTaP, DTP, or DT. If a dose is given sooner as part of wound management, the next booster is not needed for 10 years thereafter.

TD VACCINE USE IN WOUND MANAGEMENT Tetanus Wound Management

Vaccination History	Clean, minor wounds		All other wounds	
	Td	TIG	Td	TIG
Unknown or <3 doses	yes	no	yes	yes
3+ doses	no*	no	no**	yes

* yes, if >10 years since last dose

** yes, if >5 years since last dose

HOW SHOULD ALASKA PROVIDERS RESUME USE OF Td?

1. Td vaccine supplies already in stock in clinic locations may be used for routine immunization.
2. Registered providers may place Td vaccine orders with the Section of Epidemiology using

routine vaccine ordering methods. Providers who currently are not registered as Alaska vaccine recipients or who need additional copies of the *Quarterly Vaccine Order Form* should contact Debbie Wiegele or Della Fisher at 269-8000.

3. Adolescents and adults for whom routine Td booster doses were deferred should be recalled to receive the delayed dose.

WHEN WILL THE ADOLESCENT BOOSTER DOSE REQUIREMENT BE REINSTATED IN ALASKA SCHOOLS?

All adolescents for whom vaccine is indicated should now be immunized, either during routine visits or as they are recalled to receive the missed dose.

Enforcement of the Td booster requirement for school attendance will be reinstated in the fall of 2003, at the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year to provide adequate time for schools and providers to immunize the approximately 30,000 students who need to receive the vaccine.

WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR ENDING OTHER VACCINE SHORTAGES?

Although Td was the first vaccine for which national shortages were identified, shortages have also occurred for DTaP, varicella, MMR, and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7).

- **DTaP, MMR, Varicella** – Supplies of these vaccines have improved and shortages should be eliminated completely within the next 1-2 months.
- **PCV7** – Supplies of this vaccine remain at extremely low levels. This shortage is expected to continue at least through the end of 2002.

Current information on the national vaccine supply is updated weekly and may be viewed at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nip/news/shortages/default.htm>

References:

1. Nationwide Tetanus Vaccine Shortage Causes Deferral of Routine Td Booster Recommendations and 2001-2002 Td School Requirement. *Epidemiology Bulletin* No. 7, July 2, 2001.
2. Notice to Readers: Resumption of Routine Schedule for Tetanus and Diphtheria Toxoids. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention *MMWR*. June 21, 2002, Vol. 51, No. 24: pp. 529-530.

Errata: *Bulletin* No. 1, February 13, 2002 (Rabies Epizootic Among Foxes). There were 157 animals tested in the calendar year 2001.

Addendum: We would like to acknowledge Trevor Fairbanks and Mike Gentry from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for their outstanding environmental investigation involving the outbreak of rash in children described in "Outbreak of Parvovirus B19 Rash in Children", *Epidemiology Bulletin* No. 9 (April 15, 2002). We are sorry this acknowledgement was not mentioned previously.