



WASHINGTON STATE Board of Health

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DATE: June 13, 2012

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members

FROM: Dr. Patricia Ortiz, Board Member

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING – IMMUNIZATION OF CHILD CARE AND SCHOOL CHILDREN AGAINST CERTAIN VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES, CHAPTER 246-105 WAC

Background and Summary:

The Board uses the national immunization guidelines as a reference for the ages, intervals, and doses of the immunizations required in rule. According to the current rule (WAC 246-105-040) children entering school or child care must be immunized in accordance with the 2010 ACIP schedule.

The 2012 ACIP schedule includes an update to the recommended schedule for Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap). The ACIP changed its guidelines because additional data on the safety of Tdap vaccine at younger ages was made available, and the ACIP wanted to facilitate use of Tdap to reduce disease and risk of transmission to infants given the persistent and increased outbreaks of pertussis. This rationale is particularly applicable to Washington State where there have been serious pertussis outbreaks.

The current rule refers to the 2010 ACIP schedule, so providing Tdap at age 7 to 10 years (instead of Td) or at an interval less than five years from the previous diphtheria- or tetanus-containing vaccine are technically not allowed for school entry even though providers are already following the 2012 ACIP recommendations. To remain consistent with the ACIP recommendations, I am requesting that the Board update WAC 246-105-040 to reference the 2012 ACIP recommendations. At our March meeting, the Board approved the Department of Health plan implementing the Tdap requirement as described in the 2012 ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedule, in accordance with WAC 246-105-090, so that is already consistent with the 2012 ACIP schedule.

Janna Bardi, Director of the Office of Immunization and Child Profile at the Department of Health, will briefly explain the proposed rule change and its implementation. Later this afternoon you will learn more about pertussis outbreaks in our state and what the Department of Health is doing to curb these outbreaks.

Recommended Board Action:

Depending on testimony offered and the Board's discussions, the Board may choose to consider, amend if necessary, and adopt the following motion:

The Board approves the amendments to revise WAC 246-105-040 as published in WSR 12-10-011 and asks that a CR-103 be filed to adopt the amendments.

Staff Contact: Tara Wolff
