

# Is Your Child Ready?



## New Immunization Requirement for 6th Grade Entry

A new immunization is now required for 6th grade entry, beginning with the 2008-09 school year.

The new rule states that a booster dose of Tdap vaccine is required for all children before entering 6th grade that are enrolled in public school, or by age 12 for those not attending public schools (i.e., private, religious, home schools) on or after August 1, 2008, if 5 years or more have passed since the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine. Tdap is a combination vaccine that provides protection against three diseases: tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (commonly called whooping cough).

You can get this vaccine at your doctor's office or local health department. There is no cost for the Tdap vaccine, although your health care provider may charge a small administration fee to give the vaccine. For more information about this immunization requirement, contact your health care provider, or local health department. You can also contact the NC Immunization Branch at **(919) 707-5550** or go online at [www.immunizenc.com](http://www.immunizenc.com) for more information.

Your child will need to bring proof of vaccination to the school on the first day of 6th grade. Acceptable proof of vaccination is a copy of the child's Certificate of Immunization. You will have 30 days from the first day of attendance to present the required up-to-date immunization record for your child. If proof of vaccination is not provided by the end of the 30 calendar day period the child will be suspended from school until he/she provides proof of immunization.

Do not delay! Make sure your child is ready and up-to-date on his/her immunization prior to the start of the 6th grade school year.

For more information, visit [www.immunizenc.com](http://www.immunizenc.com).

