

St. Charles County Department of Health and the Environment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts: Nancy Duncan, Director of Division of Public Health
Gil Copley, CH&E Director

636-949-7407
636-949-7477

Td Vaccine in Short Supply *Routine booster to be delayed*

St. Charles County-The St. Charles County Division of Public Health announced today that because of the national shortage of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine (TD) for immunizing adults and adolescents, routine Td boosters must be delayed until adequate supplies are available. The shortage arose when one manufacturer discontinued the vaccine production leaving only one manufacturer still producing TD vaccine. According to the Centers for Disease Control, the vaccine will be in short supply until sometime early in 2002.

The Center for Disease Control has issued recommendations for the use of available vaccine that will assure vaccine availability for persons in the high priority groups as follows:

- Persons traveling to a country where there is a high risk for diphtheria
- Persons needing vaccine as part of wounds management
- Persons who have received fewer than three doses of vaccine containing tetanus
- Pregnant women who have not received Td within the past 10 years

County school districts have been notified that Td vaccine is not available at the St. Charles County Division of Public Health or at private physician's offices for routine

boosters. Normally students are excluded if not immunized as required by State law, however, until adequate supplies are available, school nurses will record names of students who need the immunization and the parents will be notified when the vaccine is again available.

For additional information, contact the St. Charles County Division of Public Health at 636-949-7400 or go to the Department of Community Health and the Environment website at www.scchealth.org and click "Tetanus Vaccine Shortage" on the scrolling banner.

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