

The Department of Health & Welfare in collaboration with the Department of Education, Govt. of Meghalaya will organize a **Td Vaccination Campaign** for all school children from the 10th – 13th March, 2025 with an objective to ensure that students aged 10 and 16 receive their required Td booster doses.

- ***Td 10 Age group** : 10 years completed but less than 11 years
(This age group includes children who are 10 years old but have not yet turned 11)

- ***Td 16 age Group**: 16 years completed but less than 17 years
(This group includes children who are 16 years old but have not yet turned 17)

The **Td (Tetanus - Diphtheria) vaccine** is essential in safeguarding children and adolescents from tetanus, a severe bacterial infection often caused by injuries involving soil or contaminated objects, and diphtheria, which can cause serious throat infections, breathing difficulties, and even death. These diseases, though preventable through vaccination, remain a significant health threat if immunization coverage declines.

Tetanus is an acute infectious disease caused by toxigenic strains of the bacterium *Clostridium tetani*. The disease may occur at any age and case-fatality rates are high even where intensive care is available. In the absence of medical intervention, the case-fatality rate approaches 100%.

Diphtheria caused by *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, has been one of the most feared infectious diseases globally, which causes devastating epidemics. Diphtheria can lead to a thick coating in the throat, difficulty breathing, heart failure, and nerve damage.

Tetanus containing vaccine is given as DPT at 5 years of age. Tetanus vaccine provides protection for 5 years. In case children hurt themselves while playing in school or at home, and they don't report it to their parents or teachers, the Td vaccine given at 10 and 16 years will protect them from tetanus infection

While routine immunization with vaccines such as the DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus) and pentavalent vaccines has significantly reduced the incidence of diphtheria in younger children, there has been a decline in booster vaccinations in adolescents and adults. This leaves older age groups more susceptible to the disease. Therefore, to protect adolescents and young adults against Diphtheria, Td 10 and 16 is given to ensure that adolescents and adults receive appropriate booster vaccinations which is essential for maintaining community immunity and protecting vulnerable populations.

Key Benefits of the Td Vaccine Include:

1. **Protection Against Tetanus and Diphtheria:** The Td vaccine provides critical protection against these potentially deadly diseases, preventing severe complications and long-term health issues.
2. **Long-Term Immunity:** Administering the vaccine at ages 10 and 16 ensures continued immunity into adulthood, as the protection from early childhood vaccinations can diminish over time.
3. **Public Health Protection:** Vaccination helps prevent outbreaks of tetanus and diphtheria, supporting herd immunity and safeguarding vulnerable populations who cannot be vaccinated due to health conditions.
4. **Prevention of Complications:** By preventing tetanus and diphtheria, we are reducing the risk of severe health complications, including disability and death, thus improving the quality of life for children and adolescents

We therefore appeal to all Parents and guardians to take part in this campaign and ensure that all the children aged 10 & 16 received the Td vaccine doses.

For more information, the School Authorities and the nearby Health Center may be contacted for the dates and timing of the session.

Sd/-
District Immunization Officer
East Khasi Hills, Shillong

Sd/-
District Medical & Health Officer
East Khasi Hills, Shillong