

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of immunization requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry. If your student has not received the new immunizations required for fall 2019/20, your incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grader will not be allowed to start on the first day of school. The Iowa law states that all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade have both a Meningococcal vaccine and a Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis/whooping cough) booster prior to the first day of school.

The Tdap requirement has already been in place for several years and requires a booster dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis containing vaccine for students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade, *regardless of the interval since the last Tetanus/Diphtheria containing vaccine*. Pertussis (whooping cough) is a very contagious disease that causes violent coughing fits that make it hard to breathe.

The new requirement added in January 2017 is for a Meningococcal vaccine. Meningococcal disease is a life threatening illness that is caused by bacteria that infects the brain, blood, and spinal cord. It easily spreads in crowded settings. The vaccine will be required prior to both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

All students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade must have proof of having both the Meningococcal and the Tdap vaccines **turned into the Oak Ridge Health office by noon on August 22<sup>nd</sup>**, unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption on file in our Health Office. There will be **no** grace/extension period for this requirement. Your student will not be able to begin school on August 23rd without record of both of these vaccines on file in our office.

If we did not have your student's immunizations on file as of the end of the year, a parent letter was sent to those families. If your child has not yet received the required vaccines, please make an appointment right away. If you think your child has already received the immunizations, please check with your child's care provider. When the immunizations have been completed, please fax a copy of the current immunization record to our office at 373-3222.

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