

IMPORTANT ALERT FOR PARENTS OF INCOMING 7TH GRADERS

NEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS!

Before students may enter the 7th grade in the 2012-2013 school year, they must show proof that they have had the Tdap vaccine booster and one dose of the meningococcal vaccine. This is a new rule that will go into effect with the beginning of the school year. It was created to make sure students are protected from some pretty serious contagious diseases.

The Tdap shot is only one shot but protects against three diseases, tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis. Students had these shots prior to entering Kindergarten, but now must show proof that they have had the booster shot, since protection has been shown to weaken as children get older. Pertussis is a very contagious disease and can last for 10 weeks or more. If pertussis is passed to infants or very young children it may be life threatening.

Bacterial meningococcal vaccine protects adolescents from the deadly bacterial meningitis. Even with treatment, people who get bacterial meningitis die in about 10% of the cases, and those who survive have long term complications such as deafness, brain damage or amputated limbs about 20% of the time.

If your child is going to begin the 7th grade this August, please make an appointment now with your child's primary health care provider for a well child physical and the required immunizations. It is also a good idea to talk with your provider about the HPV vaccine to prevent genital warts and cervical cancer. The HPV vaccine is not required but is recommended. BE SURE TO ASK FOR WRITTEN PROOF THAT YOUR CHILD HAS HAD THE TDAP AND THE MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES. You may bring that proof to the school any time prior to the last day of school this year or before or on the first day of school in August.

If you have any questions please call Kanawha Charleston Health Department at 304-348-8080 or Kanawha County Schools Health Services at 304-348-6494.