

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Iowa Department of Public Health has made changes to the Iowa Immunization law for the start of the 2017/18 school year. This change requires that all students entering 7th grade have **both** a Meningococcal vaccine and a Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis/whooping cough) booster before school starts this fall.

The Tdap requirement has been put in place since the 2013/14 school year and requires a booster dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis containing vaccine for students entering 7th 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.

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 7th and 12th grades.

All students entering 7th grade must have proof of having both the Meningococcal and the Tdap vaccines **before school starts in August**, unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption.

There will be no grace/extension period for the implementation of this requirement.

Now is a great time for your child to receive these immunization requirements and beat the back-to-school rush by making an appointment for your incoming 7th grader.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 712-786-1101.

Thank you for your time and attention to this requirement. If you have already taken care of this please disregard this letter.

Last year I called parents all Summer long to get this done; I will not be doing that this year. Come the 1st day of school if your child doesn't have these immunizations they will not be allowed to come.

Traci Miller, RN BSN
MMCRU School Nurse - Remsen