

Dear Parent/Guardian(s) of incoming 7th graders,

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of immunization requirements for 7th grade entry. The Iowa law states that all students entering 7th 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 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.

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 is 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 turned into the office by the **first day of school**, unless the student has a valid Certificate of Immunization Exemption on file.

**Iowa Code, Chapter 139a.8(6) and Iowa Administrative Code, 641-7.7(139) outline the immunization requirement for students attending licensed child care centers and elementary or secondary schools. Students shall have received the required immunizations and submit the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services Certificate of Immunization or have a valid Certificate of Immunization Exemption, or Provisional Certificate of Immunization.

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 ask your provider's office to fax a copy of the current immunization record to our office at 319-664-3670.

Thank you for your assistance in meeting these state health requirements. Please feel free to contact me at the school if you have any questions 319-664-3632 or via email at taxmear@english-valleys.k12.ia.us

Sincerely,

Tonya Axmear, RN
English Valleys School Nurse

