

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents,

### **Vaccine requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> graders**

**The state of Ohio requires all students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade to have the meningococcal vaccine (also known as MCV4, Menevo or Menactra) in addition to one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis). These are needed before starting 7<sup>th</sup> grade.**

#### **Meningococcal meningitis**

Meningococcal meningitis is a rare but serious disease that develops rapidly and can claim a life in as little as one day. Of those who survive, approximately one in five are left with serious medical problems like amputation, deafness, and brain damage. Teens are at increased risk of meningococcal meningitis.

#### **Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap)**

Tetanus causes painful tightening of the muscles, usually all over your body; diphtheria causes a thick covering in the back of the throat and can also lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure, and even death; pertussis causes coughing spells and can lead to pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death, particularly in infants.

Vaccination is the best way to protect someone from getting these diseases.

You may obtain these vaccines from your child's health care provider, the Trumbull County or Geauga County Health Departments, Rite-Aid, or Walgreens.

Students who do not provide documentation of these immunizations to the High School Office or District RN by September 10, 2021, will not be permitted to attend school until they are received. Any absences that incur because of not having the vaccines will be counted as unexcused. If there are medical/religious or philosophical reasons your child cannot receive immunizations, please contact the school clinic for an Immunization Exemption Form.

Thank you,

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