

Date: July 27, 2016

To: Parents of incoming 7th grade students

Re: Reminder for Tdap vaccination and **New State Law requiring Meningococcal Vaccine**

Along with the current requirement for a Tdap vaccination for incoming seventh grade, the Ohio State Legislature has passed a law, effective January 1, 2016, requiring that all upcoming seniors and seventh grade students also be vaccinated against meningitis.

What is meningococcal disease?

According to the CDC, meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness. It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2 through 18 years old in the United States. Meningitis is an infection of the covering of the brain and the spinal cord. Meningococcal disease also causes blood infections. About 1,000 – 1,200 people get meningococcal disease each year in the U.S. Even when they are treated with antibiotics, 10-15% of these people die. Of those who live, another 11%-19% lose their arms or legs, have problems with their nervous systems, become deaf, or suffer seizures or strokes. This is why preventing the disease through use of meningococcal vaccine is important for people at highest risk.

Anyone can get meningococcal disease. But it is most common in infants less than one year of age and people 16-21 years old. Children with certain medical conditions have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease. College freshmen living in dorms are also at increased risk.

Where can immunizations be obtained?

Immunizations may be obtained by appointment through the Sandusky County Health Department at 419-334-6377, the Seneca County Health Department at 419-447-3691, the Health Department in Bellevue at 419-668-1652 (Ext. 241), or you can check to see if your family doctor provides the immunization. **Please schedule your appointment TODAY** appointments will be easier to get if you act now. Both the Tdap and meningococcal vaccines are required **PRIOR** to the first day of school. The State of Ohio requires students to be excluded from school if they are not completely vaccinated within the first fifteen days of school. Please provide an updated copy of your child's immunization record to the school once they have received the vaccination.

If you have any questions regarding this vaccine please contact me at 419-547-0588, ext. 1015.

Please act today to prevent the risk of exclusion from school or school related activities like band and athletics
–Call for your appointment today!

Karen Horn, RN, LSN
School Nurse

Mr. Brian Cannon
Principal, McPherson Middle School

