January 3, 2018

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Re: New Kentucky Immunization Requirements for Elementary School Entry

This information came to the district from the Kentucky Department of Public Health.

A recent amendment to the Kentucky Administrative Regulation on the immunization schedules for attending school added new immunization requirements for the school year beginning on or after July 1, 2018.

Effective July 1, 2018:

* **All** students in kindergarten through twelfth grade must show proof of having received two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine to attend school.

To meet these requirements, a **current** Certificate of Immunization Status must be provided to the school showing the two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine. If your child has already received two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine, he or she will not be required to receive the series again.

Acute hepatitis A disease has been in the news in the last several months because of a large outbreak in California caused by the contagious and easily spread hepatitis A virus. Most children with hepatitis A infection have no characteristic symptoms but can easily spread the virus to others. Children with acute hepatitis A disease can have fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, joint pain, stomach pains and diarrhea, or jaundice. Acute liver failure and/or death can occur in the most severe cases.

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Hepatitis A vaccine is highly effective in preventing acute hepatitis A. Hepatitis A vaccine is available from your doctor, clinic or healthcare provider and is covered as a no-cost preventive service by most health insurance plans when administered by network providers. All local health departments administer Hepatitis A vaccine, especially for children who do not have health insurance. If your child is not up-to-date on immunizations, please contact your healthcare provider or local health department to schedule an appointment or to find out the hours when vaccines are given.

Online information about Hepatitis A vaccine is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/index.html>.

If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse at your student’s school. They can provide information to help, if necessary.

Sincerely,

Wayne Sizemore

Breathitt County School Health Coordinator