

**SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Springfield, New Jersey 07081**

To the parents / guardians of 6<sup>TH</sup> grade students:

If your child will be 11 years old when they begin 6<sup>th</sup> grade, they are required to receive both Tdap and Meningococcal vaccine prior to the first day of school. Pupils that are 10 years old when entering sixth grade will not be required to receive the preferred Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine, Menactra until they turn 11 years of age. They will have to show documentation of receiving the vaccine within 2 weeks of their 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. Tdap can be given at the earliest age of 10 depending on the availability of vaccine at a provider's practice. If the pupil's physician only carries Adacel then the child will not be required to receive it until 11 years of age. If the physician carries Boostrix then the Department of Health encourages them to use it for their 10 year olds.

According to the regulations of the New Jersey Immunization Law, a medical exemption can be obtained by submitting a written statement to the school from a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy or a certified registered nurse practitioner in any jurisdiction of the United States indicating that an immunization is medically contraindicated for a specific period of time, and the reason(s) for the medical contraindication, based upon valid medical reasons as enumerated by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States Public Health Service or the American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines. This statement will exempt a pupil for the specific immunization requirement for the stated period or time.

The New Jersey Immunization Law also provides for religious exemptions. The law states that a child shall be exempted from mandatory immunization if the parent or guardian objects thereto in a written statement submitted to the school, signed by the parent or guardian, explaining how the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with the pupil's exercise of bona fide religious tenets or practices. General philosophical or moral objection to immunization shall not be sufficient for an exemption on religious grounds.

If your child qualifies for a medical or religious exemption, please submit the above mentioned documents to the Health Office at this time. Please work with the Health Office to up-date our records so that all our students are compliant with the regulations of the State of New Jersey.