



Dear Sixth-Grade Families:

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children be seen each year by their regular doctor for a comprehensive health and wellness examination. Required vaccinations can be obtained during annual visits, and you can use this time to discuss any health issues or concerns you or your doctor may have.

Prior to entering the seventh grade, students are required to receive the following immunizations:

1. **Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) Vaccine**

The Tdap booster offers preteens continued protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). Effective July 1, 2019, **students are required to receive the Tdap booster prior to entry into seventh grade.** This requirement aligns with guidelines from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that the Tdap booster be given to students who are 11 years of age. *Learn more about the Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis vaccine.*

2. **HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Vaccine**

The HPV vaccine can prevent infection with some types of human papillomavirus that can cause certain types of cancer. Effective July 1, 2021, a complete series of two doses of the HPV vaccine is required for both boys and girls. The first dose should be administered before the child enters the seventh grade. A parent or guardian, after reviewing educational materials approved by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), may elect for their child not to receive the HPV vaccine. *Learn more about the HPV vaccine on the VDH website or the CDC website.*

3. **MenACWY (Meningococcal Conjugate) Vaccine**

The MenACWY vaccine protects against Meningococcal disease, which spreads easily through the air and direct contact and can cause meningitis and infections of the blood. Effective July 1, 2021, students are required to receive one dose of the MenACWY vaccine prior to entry into seventh grade and a second dose prior to entry into 12th grade. *Learn more about the MenACWY vaccine.*

These vaccines are safe and effective in preventing the spread of disease among your children and their friends, classmates, and community members. We encourage you to schedule a physical or check-up for your rising seventh grader with their physician so that your child can obtain these immunizations. If you do not have a physician, your child can receive required immunizations at the Charlottesville Health Center. Call **434-227-5624** to schedule an appointment and discuss payment options. Alternatively, you may be able to get immunizations at the local health department. Call **434-972-6200** to inquire about an appointment at one of their weekly immunization clinics on Wednesdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

After your child has received the required vaccinations, please provide your child's school with the appropriate immunization documentation. **Students will not be allowed to begin their seventh-grade year until documentation of the required immunizations has been received.**

Please contact your child's school nurse if you have any questions about these requirements.

Sincerely,
Eileen Gomez
School Health Coordinator

**School Health Services
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