



Date: _____

Please read the following letter from SC DHEC

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) wants to assure that all children and teens receive recommended vaccines to prevent disease. DHEC reminds parents and guardians that South Carolina law requires that all students entering 7th grade receive one (1) dose of Tdap vaccine. The Tdap vaccine protects preteens and teens from three serious diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). It is important to know that there are three other vaccines that all preteens and teens are recommended to receive: human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine, a cancer prevention vaccine, meningococcal vaccine (MenACWY) that prevents some types of meningitis, and the yearly flu vaccine.

We are reminding you now so that you have time to plan for your child to be vaccinated prior to the start of 7th grade. To beat the back-to-school rush, a good time to get all these vaccines is during a yearly health checkup. Talk to your child’s health care provider now about what vaccines he or she needs. You should also ask about these vaccines at a physical exam required for sports, school, or camp. Don’t forget to make sure you get an updated SC Certificate of Immunization to give to your school nurse. This certificate is required by state law for school attendance.

Your local DHEC health department also can provide these vaccines. Call 1-855-472-3432 to make an appointment. For more information about vaccinations in South Carolina, go to scdhec.gov/Health/Vaccinations/

*Complete and return to your child’s school nurse by **MAY 31**.*

(Place a check mark beside the appropriate response for your child.)

My child has received the TDap vaccination. (Please attach copy of proof of vaccination)

My child has an appointment to receive the TDap vaccination on the following date _____.

I plan to make an appointment for my child to receive the TDap vaccination over summer break.

My child has a current SC Religious Exemption Certificate from DHEC on file at school that includes the 7th Grade TDAP requirement.

Student’s Full Name: _____ *Date of Birth:* _____