



Clinton Public School
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Dear Parent,

This letter is to inform you that New Jersey Administrative Code N.J.A.C. 8:57-4 (Immunization of Pupils in School) requires **students entering sixth grade in the fall** receive both the Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines before the first day of school.

Students who are 10 years old when they enter 6th grade are not required to obtain the vaccines until they turn 11. A two-week grace period is given for those students to obtain the required vaccines. Students can be excluded from school if they do not get the required vaccines and do not have a valid medical or religious exemption.

After your child celebrates his 11th birthday, please have him/her vaccinated and provide the school with proof of immunization. Proof of immunization is a physician's note stating the month, day, and year your child received the immunizations. **Please send proof of immunization in to school by the first day.** Students who are non-compliant with immunization requirements may not participate in school sports teams.

Tdap is required for 6th grade entry because Pertussis is an acute, infectious illness with cough. Immunity to Pertussis wanes approximately 5 to 10 years after completion of the childhood Pertussis vaccinations leaving adolescents and adults susceptible. Pertussis is a highly contagious disease that is primarily transmitted from person to person through respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing. Pertussis can be fatal to infants.

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness causing an infection of the blood and also the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. 10 to 15% of those who become ill with meningitis die even when treated with antibiotics. Those that survive have residual problems due to the seriousness of this illness. Pre-teens and teens are at greater risk of contracting the disease which is spread by the exchange of respiratory droplets and close, personal contact with infected persons.

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:40-21.2 the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services has developed the attached educational facts sheets about Meningococcal Meningitis. Public school districts are statutorily required to distribute a fact sheet about meningococcal meningitis to parents or guardians of students in grade six. The fact sheet is available at: https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/faq/meningococcal_faq.pdf.

Thank you for having your child vaccinated and being compliant with New Jersey immunization requirements. If you have not already sent in a note from your physician stating that your child has received the required meningococcal and Tdap vaccines, please do so as soon as possible before the first day of school.

Please contact me at school or via email at jsedlacek@cpsnj.org if you have any questions regarding these requirements.

Best regards,

Jen Sedlacek, RN
School Nurse

Dr. Seth Cohen
Superintendent/Principal