Westside Union School District
Pointing the way, providing the path

We know that you consistently put your child's safety first, which is why we are sharing updated information on vaccines. Prior to 7th grade entry California law, Health and Safety Code 120325-129375 requires that your 6th grader must receive a Tdap booster vaccine. By law, schools are required to collect vaccines information, monitor immunizations, and enforce vaccine requirements for school. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) annually audits school districts immunization rates and records.

Additionally, the California Health and Safety Code recommends that pupils are fully immunized against human papillomavirus (HPV) before admission or advancement to the eighth-grade level of any private or public elementary or secondary school.

What we know about HPV.

- HPV may be contracted via skin-to-skin contact and transmission increases with direct mucus membrane contact (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2023).
- HPV has been directly linked to head, neck, larynx, and throat cancer and cervical cancer (Mount Sinai, 2022) and causes nearly 50,000 incidences of cancer annually.
- The HPV vaccine is 97% effective in preventing HPV related cancers (National Institutes of Health, 2022).
- Ten percent of 13-year-olds have already been infected with HPV.

Given that 10% of 13-year-olds are infected with HPV, **children ages 11–12 years should get two doses of HPV vaccine, given 6 to 12 months apart**. HPV vaccines can be given starting at age 9 years. Talk with your healthcare provider or school nurse if you have additional questions.