

September 5, 2008

Dear 6th grade Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that in February the New Jersey Dept. of Health and Senior Services revised the existing immunization guidelines to include two immunizations for incoming 6th graders.

Meningococcal vaccine:

Every child born on or after *January 1, 1997*, and entering sixth grade shall have received one dose of the meningococcal vaccine.

Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine:

Every child born on or after *January 1, 1997* and entering 6th grade shall have received one dose of the Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) given no earlier than the 10th birthday. Children who received a Td booster less than five years prior to entry shall not be required to receive a Tdap dose until five years have elapsed from the last Td/DTP, or DTaP dose.

The state of New Jersey has instructed us to allow all public school students a *two week grace period* for parents to comply with these new regulations. Beginning Tuesday, September 23, 2008, any student who has not received these required vaccines will be excluded from school. Students will not be allowed to return to school until the vaccines have been given, and documentation is provided to the school nurse.

Please refer to the reverse side of this letter for information from the state regarding this requirement.

If you need assistance in finding a physician who will administer these vaccines, or other questions please feel free to contact me during normal school hours at 973-962-4099.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Cynthia DeVries R.N. CSN