

**Adolescent  
immunization**



## IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR YOUR CHILD

### School Entry Immunization Requirements for 12<sup>th</sup> Graders

Dear Parent,

Vaccines save lives and protect our children. When young children are about to enter PreK and kindergarten for the first time, parents have to make sure that their child is up to date on their shots. However, young children are not the only ones that need shots.

**Starting with the 2012-2013 school year, students entering 12th grade will have shot requirements. These requirements must be met before they can start school.** Children that are current with their adolescent shots may have already met the new requirements, however many have not. **Before the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year, students entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade must show proof of a single dose of Tdap vaccine,** which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) **and a booster dose of the meningococcal vaccine,** if the first dose of meningococcal was given before the child's 16th birthday. If the first dose was given after the 16th birthday, then a booster dose of meningococcal is not required.

While Tdap and meningococcal vaccines are the only two shots required for 12th graders, the HPV and seasonal influenza vaccines are also recommended, although not required, for adolescents. The HPV vaccine prevents strains of HPV that can cause cervical cancer. HPV vaccines are given in three shots over 6 months—it is very important to get all 3 shots to be fully protected.

Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective preventive measures available and have saved countless lives. The new adolescent immunization requirements will not only lengthen the time for which immunized students are protected from vaccine-preventable diseases, but will also lower their chances of passing diseases to the elderly, children and infants, classmates with weakened immune systems, and others. **Immunizations help keep adolescents healthy and prevent problems as they grow older.**

Take your adolescent to their health care provider for a routine adolescent check-up to determine if your teen's shots are current and to meet the 2012-2013 school entry requirements. Adolescents who are found to be missing shots can receive them during that visit. Teens without a family doctor or health care provider may visit a local provider, the Harrison County Health Department or a community health center for their immunizations.

**For school-specific information, please contact your school's nurse OR  
Donna Moore, Coordinator – Health Services  
Harrison County Schools: 304-326-7690  
Email: [dnfmoore@access.k12.wv.us](mailto:dnfmoore@access.k12.wv.us)**

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BEST  
SHOT