

**Adolescent  
immunization**



## **IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR YOUR CHILD!**

### **School Entry Immunization Requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> Graders**

Dear Families,

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 7th 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 7<sup>th</sup> grade must show proof of a booster dose of Tdap vaccine,** which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) and a dose of the meningococcal vaccine.

Although Tdap and meningococcal shots are required for entry into seventh grade, they are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for adolescents beginning at age 11. Parents are encouraged to have their children immunized after they turn 11, rather than wait until right before the start of 7th grade to ensure that they are fully protected from these vaccine-preventable diseases throughout their adolescence. Seasonal influenza and the HPV vaccine are also recommended, although not required for adolescents.

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 child to their health care provider for a routine adolescent check-up to determine if your child's shots are current and to meet the 2012-2013 school entry requirements. Children who are found to be missing shots can receive them during that visit. Children 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**

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**TAKE  
YOUR  
BEST  
SHOT**