



Nurse Jackie Dunlap, RN  
School Nurse, Colo-NESCO Schools

Dear Parents/Guardian,

The Iowa Department of Public Health has made changes to the Iowa Immunization law for the start of the 2017/2018 school year. This change requires that all students entering 7th grade have both a Meningococcal vaccine and a Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis/whooping cough) booster before school starts this fall.

The Tdap requirement has been in place since 2013/14 school year and requires a booster dose of the Tetanus, Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis containing vaccine for student entering 7th grade, *regardless of the interval since the last Tetanus/Diphtheria containing vaccine*. Pertussis (whooping cough) is a very contagious disease that causes violent coughing fits that make it hard to breathe.

Meningococcal disease is a life threatening illness that is caused by bacteria that infects the brain, blood and spinal cord. It easily spreads in crowded settings. The vaccine will be required prior to both the 7th and 12th grades.

All students entering 7th grade must have proof of having both the Meningococcal and the Tdap vaccines **before school starts in August**, unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption.

Please contact your health care provider and make an appointment as soon as possible. If your insurance is limited for immunization coverage I would encourage you to call HOMEWARD at 1-800-529-4610 and make an appointment. They have after work hours every second and fourth Tuesday of the the month from 4:30 - 6:30 pm, appointments are not necessary but are encouraged.

Sincerely,

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