

Dear Parent/Guardian,

RE: 7th Grade Required Immunizations

The Iowa Department of Public Health 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 put in place for many years and requires a booster dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis containing vaccine for students 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 is now required prior to 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.

There will be no grace/extension period for this requirement.

Please make sure your 7th grader has all the required immunizations before school starts on August 23rd. Please submit an updated immunization record to Jenny Degen at Bishop Garrigan so your student's information will be up to date.

To check your child's immunizations, please contact your physician or you can call Community Health at 295-4430.

Thank you!

Jenny Degen
Registrar
Bishop Garrigan Schools