

May 23rd, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians of 5th grade students,

This letter is to inform you of the 6th grade immunization requirements. We wanted to get this out early, so you have plenty of time to get your child immunized prior to the start of 6th grade in the fall.

Students will not be allowed to start school in August if vaccinations are not up to date!

South Dakota Department of Health administrative rules require both the Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) and MCV4 (Meningococcal ACYW) vaccines for 6th grade students. The requirement is a result of legislation passed in 2016 adding meningococcal infection to the list of diseases specified in South Dakota Codified Law 13-28-7.1 for which DOH can require vaccination for school entry in South Dakota.

School entry requirements for South Dakota 6th grade students include:

- One dose of **Tdap** vaccine (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)
- One dose of **MCV4** vaccine (meningococcal ACYW)
 - If your child is 10 years old when entering the 6th grade they have 45 days after their 11th birthday to be vaccinated

If you are claiming exemption to vaccinations, a completed & signed South Dakota Department of Health Certificate of Immunization form is required. Even if your child has a certificate on file, you will need to fill out an updated copy.

Please contact the school office for a copy of the Certificate of Immunization form to fill out, sign, and return to the office prior to the start of the school year.

Thank You!

Betsy Howe

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Garretson School District Nurse