



Lisa Maxwell, Principal
Erich Bailey, Guidance

05921 DOMERSVILLE ROAD, DEFIANCE, OHIO 43512 / (419) 497-2361 TELEPHONE / (419) 497-3401 FAX

May 11, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of 2021-22 Grade 7 students,

All students entering 7th grade must receive a dose of the **Tdap vaccine** (Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) and a dose of the **meningococcal vaccine** (MCV4, serogroups A, C, W, and Y) by the 15th day of the 2021-22 school year, as required by Ohio law.

- Tetanus is contracted by a puncture or laceration of the skin with an object contaminated by the tetanus bacteria, commonly found in dirty soil, dust and manure. Diphtheria bacteria lives in the mouth, throat, and nose of an infected person and can be passed to others by coughing or sneezing. Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a very contagious disease that is especially dangerous to infants; and also becoming more common in adolescents and adults.
- The meningococcal vaccine was a new requirement for 7th graders starting in 2016. The bacteria that causes the meningitis infection can spread when people have close contact with someone else's saliva, like through kissing or coughing. Teens and young adults are at increased risk for meningococcal disease and it can become very serious. The meningococcal vaccine is the best way to protect teens from getting meningococcal disease.

The school office must receive proof of these immunizations prior to the 15th day of the 2021-22 school year, unless the parent has submitted a reason of conscience, religious, or medical exemption. Failure to provide proof to the office may result in your child not being able to attend school until the office receives a copy of your child immunizations or a statement of exemption.

These vaccines are available through the Defiance and Henry County Health Departments and through most private physician offices.

Please note that some local health departments no longer receive vaccine supply for those covered by private insurance. The Ohio Department of Health may only send a limited supply of vaccines designated for children covered by Medicaid or those without insurance. Please call ahead to inquire about coverage and benefits.

Sincerely,

Carol Hesterman
School Nurse

Defiance:

Defiance County Health Department
Call 419-784-3818
to make an appointment.

Napoleon:

Henry County Health Department
Call 419-599-5545
to make an appointment.