



Lisa Maxwell, Principal
Erich Bailey, Guidance

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

April 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of 2020-21 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) before the 14th day of the 2020-21 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 Junior High office must receive proof of these immunizations prior to the 14th day of the 2020-21 school year, unless 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 (hours listed below) 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 only sends a limited supply of vaccines designated for children covered by Medicaid or those without insurance. Please call ahead to inquiry about coverage and benefits.

In the midst of this COVID-19 pandemic, please know this is not an urgent matter and a special trip to the health department or doctor's office is not required at this time. This letter is to simply inform you of the requirement and deadline, so you have time to plan or look into whether your child still needs the above vaccines.

Sincerely,
Carol Hesterman, RN, BSN, LSN
School Nurse

Defiance:

Defiance County Health Department

Walk-ins

First & Third Wednesday

8:30-10:30 am & 2-4 pm

If you have questions, please call:

(419) 784-3818

Hicksville:

Defiance County Health Department

(Located at the Hicksville Huber

Opera House)

Walk-ins

Forth Tuesday 10 am - 12 pm

& 1:30 - 4 pm

If you have questions, please call:

(419) 784-3818

Napoleon:

Henry County Health Department

Call 419-599-5545

to make an appointment.

All immunization clinics are by appointment only.