



6th Grade Vaccine Requirements

TO: Parents/Guardians

FROM: Health Office

SUBJECT: Tdap Booster and Meningococcal Vaccines

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Beginning with the upcoming school year, the Arizona Department of Health Services requires two immunizations for 6th grade: Tdap booster and Meningococcal vaccines. According to A.R.S. 15-871 15-874, "No child will be admitted without immunization records." These vaccines are required before they start 6th grade in August. Proof of vaccination, documented by your child's doctor, needs to be submitted to the health office.

The Tdap dose is intended to be administered as a booster dose for students who have completed the required doses of the initial series of DTaP/DT/Td. Therefore, your future 6th grader will need to show proof of having received the booster dose before they can begin the school year. If your child received one dose of Tdap as part of the original series, another dose of Tdap will not be required. The Tdap can be given regardless of the interval since the last tetanus or diphtheria-toxoid containing vaccine. Tdap can be given at ages 7-10 years and will meet the 11-year old+ Tdap requirement.

In addition to the Tdap, your child is also required to receive the Meningococcal vaccine prior to entry into 6th grade. The Meningococcal vaccine prevents bacteria that is commonly spread from person to person, especially in teens and young adults. These bacteria can cause meningitis, which is an infection of the fluid and lining surrounding the brain and spinal cord; it can also enter through the bloodstream, causing sepsis. A dose administered at 10 years of age will meet the requirement.

You are currently receiving this letter in order to provide you with ample time to have your child immunized before the coming school year begins. Please contact your physician or health department to schedule an appointment. Proof of immunizations may be brought, mailed or faxed to the health office. This is also true for doses given over the summer. If a child is not compliant with the above law, they will not be allowed to start school in August.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call or email the health office.

Sincerely,

Michelle Johnson RN, BSN

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