

Immunization Requirement for All Students Entering 7th Grade

The Iowa Department of Public Health Immunization Program has made a change to the Iowa Administrative Code to require one dose of the Tdap vaccine and the Meningococcal vaccine for all adolescents entering 7th grade (approximately 13 years of age).

This requirement will help Iowa achieve and maintain high adolescent vaccination coverage levels while reducing the number of pertussis (whooping cough) cases occurring annually in Iowa.

As you schedule physicals for athletics or if you are in your physician's office this spring or summer, please ask about this booster vaccine. Documentation of the Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines on the Certificate of Immunization will need to be provided to Mrs. Svare, the school nurse, prior to the first day of school.

If a Tdap was administered to your child on or after their 10th birthday, this will meet the requirement.

If you are in need of financial assistance to obtain the vaccination, please contact The Iowa Department of Public Health for available resources at 1-319-741-6422.

Immunization Requirement for All Students Entering 12th Grade

The Iowa Department of Public Health has made changes to the Iowa Immunization law for the start of the 2017/18 school year. This change requires that all students entering 12th grade have the Meningococcal vaccine before school starts this fall.

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 and typically affects older teens and young adults.

All students entering 12th grade must have proof of having the Meningococcal vaccine **before school starts in August**, unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption.

The state will not allow any grade/extension period for the implementation of this requirement.

Now is a great time for your child to receive this immunization requirement and beat the back-to-school rush by making an appointment for your incoming 12th grader.

If you have questions, please contact Jill Svare at 642-3332 or JSvare@ivcsd.org.