

May 23, 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has recently revised immunization requirements for students who will be entering the sixth grade in September 2008.

Effective September 1, 2008, every student born on or after January 1, 1997 and entering sixth grade must meet the following requirements:

- Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine:

One dose of Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Acellular Pertussis) given no earlier than the 10th birthday.

Students who received a Td booster less than 5 years prior to September 1, 2008, shall not be required to receive a Tdap dose until 5 years have elapsed since the last DTP/Dtap or Td dose.

- Meningococcal vaccine:

One dose of a meningococcal-containing vaccine, such as the medically-preferred meningococcal conjugate vaccine. Note: this applies to students when they turn 11 years of age and are attending 6th grade.

Parents should contact their child's physician **as soon as possible** to verify that these immunizations have been given or to arrange to have them administered. Written documentation of required vaccine administration with complete date (day, month and year) is due by **August 1, 2008.**

Please contact me at 908.996.6811 x 227 for questions concerning vaccine requirements or for information about the Vaccine for Children Program.

Sincerely,

Dorothy W. Fuchs, RN., MA
AMS School Nurse