



March 16, 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s):

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) require seventh grade students to have Meningococcal (MCV4) and Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis/Whooping Cough (Tdap) vaccinations for the 2017-2018 school year.

The MCV4 vaccination protects students from certain meningococcal bacteria that can lead to Meningitis or Sepsis. After students are initially vaccinated before seventh grade, an additional booster shot is recommended at age 16. Typically, MCV4 is a required vaccination for college/university students; however, DHMH has found it necessary for students age 11 and older to receive these vaccinations.

As for Tdap, the original vaccination received in early childhood for Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (DTaP) wears off; therefore, a supplemental booster shot is suggested at age 11 for continued protection against the bacteria that causes these diseases.

Verification of vaccinations must be provided for all seventh grade students enrolled in St. Mary's County Public Schools before the first day of the 2017-2018 school year. An updated shot record will be needed from the student's physician to validate that the student received the vaccination.

The following vaccinations are required for seventh grade students:

- Meningococcal (MCV4)
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis/Whooping Cough (Tdap)

Students can receive these vaccines from a primary care physician. If you have any questions, please contact your school nurse. Thank you for your support as we work together to keep our students healthy.

Sincerely,

Patricia Wince, RN, MSN, NBCSN
Supervisor of Health Services

PW:mgc