



March 23, 2009

Dear Parents:

Re: Changes in Texas Immunization Requirements

Recently, the Executive Commission on Health & Human Services approved several revisions to the "Immunization Requirements for Children and Students in Texas Public and Private Schools" [Title 25. Health Services, Chapter 97, Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §97.61 and §§97.63-97.77].

The changes to the requirements were made in order to update the Texas elementary and secondary school immunization requirements so that they adhere more closely to the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

The following immunization requirement changes are **effective beginning August 1, 2009** and include:

Hepatitis A Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering **kindergarten** will be required to have two (2) doses of Hepatitis A vaccine.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering **kindergarten** will be required to have two (2) doses of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

Varicella Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering **kindergarten** and **7th grade** will be required to have two (2) doses of varicella vaccine. A written statement from a parent (or legal guardian or managing conservator), school nurse, or physician attesting to a child's positive history of varicella disease (chickenpox), or of varicella immunity is acceptable in lieu of either dose of varicella vaccine.

Tetanus, Diphtheria and acellular pertussis-containing vaccine (Tdap): Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering the **seventh (7th) grade** will be required to have one (1) dose of Tdap only if it has been five (5) years since their last dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine. Students in grades 8-12 are required to have a booster dose of Tdap if it has been ten (10) years since their previous dose of a tetanus-containing vaccine. Td is acceptable in lieu of Tdap if a contraindication to pertussis exists.

Meningococcal Vaccine: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students entering **7th grade** will be required to have one (1) dose of meningococcal vaccine.

Conscientious Exemption: Beginning August 1, 2009, all students with an affidavit for Exemption for Reasons of Conscience entering **kindergarten or seventh (7th) grade** must present a valid affidavit that includes the above mentioned immunizations for their records to be considered to be complete.

Admission to school is only allowed when records are produced showing (1) that the child has been immunized in accordance with the rules; (2) the child has an exemption from immunization requirements on file with the school in accordance with the rules; or (3) that the child is entitled to Provisional Enrollment in accordance with the rules as adopted by the Texas State Department of Health Services.

Any questions or concerns that you might have should be directed to your School Nurse at: ___704-0612_____.

