

Reminder for Parents: Additional School Shots Will Be Required 2012-2013

Immunization saves lives and protects our children. When young children are about to enter kindergarten for the first time, parents have to make sure that their child's shots are current. Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, older students entering 7th grade and 12th grade will have shot requirements that must be met before the start of the school year.

Children that are current with their adolescent shots may have already met the new requirements, however many have not. This informational sheet explains what shots are needed and explains the importance of getting your child's shot record reviewed before the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.



What are the requirements for the 2012-2013 school year?

- 7th Graders must show proof of a booster dose of Tdap vaccine which protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough) and a dose of MCV4 (meningitis) vaccine.
- 12th Graders also must show proof of a single dose of Tdap, plus a booster dose of MCV4 if the first dose of MCV4 was given before the child's 16th birthday. If the first dose was given after the 16th birthday, then a booster dose is not required.

What can parents do now to prepare for the new requirements?

The immunization schedule can be difficult for parents to understand, which is why an immunization/well child check-up is so important. Take your child to their doctor for a routine adolescent check-up to determine if your child's shots are current and meet the 2012-2013 school entry requirements. Children who are found to be missing shots can receive them during that visit.

Children without a family doctor may visit the local health department, school-based health center or community health center for an immunization check-up. Children without insurance or those with insurance that doesn't cover the cost of the immunization may participate in the Vaccines for Children program that provides free vaccine to children age 18 and under without any out-of-pocket expense to the parent. Children enrolled with Medicaid or WVCHIP also receive state-supplied vaccines at no cost to the parent.

