

**Greeneville City Schools
Coordinated School Health Department**

Tuesday, June 06, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to remind parents/guardians that all children entering 7th grade (including currently enrolled students) must turn in a form entitled Tennessee Department of Health Certificate of Information that includes documentation of the following immunizations:

- **Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis booster (“Tdap”)**—evidence of one Tdap dose given any time before 7th grade entry is required *regardless* of Td history (2013 update)
- **Verification of immunity to varicella – 2 doses** or credible history of disease

Why do I have to turn in this certificate?

In 2010, the Tennessee Department of Health updated the immunization requirements for all students entering 7th grade or enrolling in college. Students may be kept out of class if they do not meet the requirements. Exemptions are allowed only for religious or medical reasons. The information listed in this letter should help you prepare for next school year. We urge you to take care of your child’s immunization needs now; don’t wait for the rush!

What if I can’t afford the vaccines?

Cost should not prevent you from vaccinating your child. Children and teens younger than age 19, who have TennCare or don’t have health insurance, can receive free vaccines through the federal Vaccines for Children (“VFC”) Program in participating private medical offices and health departments. Ask your child’s health care provider if they participate in VFC. If your child has insurance that doesn’t pay for vaccines and you can’t afford them, local health departments can provide the vaccine. Health departments and VFC providers charge a small administration fee to give the free vaccine, which can be adjusted based on your income.

When and where do I get the certificate?

Parents and guardians can get the certificate from a health department or health care provider licensed in Tennessee. Another method of obtaining this certificate is to sign a parental consent form allowing school staff to enter documentation into the Tennessee Immunization Information System. Parents who have clear documentation of immunizations from their healthcare provider may turn those records into the school nurse and must sign the Parental Consent Form. The data will be entered into TennIIS—if immunizations are in order a certificate can be obtained.

Where do I turn this in?

It should be turned into Greeneville Middle School. The school nurse should receive the information. You may turn the certificate in as soon as you receive it. If you have not turned in the certificate prior to **registration blitz scheduled for July 17th or 18th**, you must bring it the day you attend registration in order to receive your student’s class schedule. **STUDENTS MUST SUBMIT THIS CERTIFICATE IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THEIR 2017-2018 CLASS SCHEDULE.**

You can find out more about the vaccine requirements online at http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/health/attachments/TDH_Sum_of_Imm_Rules-Cert_Instructions_10-2016.pdf or you can contact your healthcare provider or local health department. For general information about vaccines, visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines. For questions about school policies or health examinations, contact the Coordinated School Health Department at 423-823-2916

Sincerely yours,

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