

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education have revised the Maine School Immunization Requirements rule to now include meningococcal meningitis disease. These changes further align Maine's immunization rules with current national recommendations to better protect the health of all Maine people. Meningococcal disease is a rare, but dangerous disease that strikes healthy young people without warning. It can affect all ages, but teens and young adults are at highest risk of getting the disease.

This is a reminder that due to a change in Maine state law last school year, all 7th grade students are *also* required to show proof that they have received a booster of the vaccine Tdap, (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis).

The parent/physician may complete an Exemption Form for medical or philosophical reasons. This form can be found on our website.

In order to attend school, the following changes are effective for the 2018-2019 school year for all students attending a public or private Middle School in the State of Maine:

- One dose of meningococcal vaccine MCV4 (serogroups A, C, W, and Y) is required for all students entering 7th grade
- Tdap vaccine booster, (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis) is required for all students entering 7th grade

We are providing you with this information now so that you have ample time to schedule an appointment prior to the first day of the 2018-2019 school year.

Please provide the School Nurse with proof of vaccination BEFORE the start of the school year.

For further questions, please contact the Maine Immunization Program at (207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775 or by email at ImmunizeME.DHHS@maine.gov.

Should you have any questions about what we have on record at school, you may contact your School Nurse, or contact your Primary Care Provider for more information.

Thank you for your cooperation in responding to this legal requirement.

