



Christopher Turnbull  
Bear Tavern Principal

## Bear Tavern Elementary School

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March 1, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians of 5th Grade Students:

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services requires the following immunizations for students entering Grade 6:

- Students must have one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) and one dose of meningococcal vaccine. Tdap is a booster vaccination and not the same formulation as the DTaP your child received at a younger age.
- The Tdap vaccine must be given on or after the 10th birthday and no sooner than five years after any DTP, DTaP or Td vaccination. (A child does not need a Tdap dose until FIVE years after the last DTP/DTaP or Td dose).
- Students must have one dose of a meningococcal-containing vaccine, such as the medically-preferred meningococcal conjugate vaccine.
- For students who are eleven (11) years old before September 1, 2019 these immunizations must be completed before they enter grade 6 in September, 2019. Those students who are not eleven (11) years old by September 1, 2019 must complete the immunizations as soon as they turn eleven (11) years old to remain compliant and be able to stay in school.

When your child receives these vaccines, please submit this information in writing to the school nurse. The dates of the vaccines must be indicated on a form signed by your physician. We must have this documentation before your child enters grade 6, so please do not wait to send in documentation if your child has already received these immunizations. The elementary school nurses will document the immunizations and this information will be forwarded to Timberlane.

Please note that these requirements apply to all 6th graders in New Jersey regardless of their school choice.

Please contact your health care provider to schedule these immunizations as soon as possible. Even if your child will not be eleven years old until later in the year, it would be beneficial to make an appointment early to avoid a rush at the last minute.

If you are also visiting your physician for your child's physical, please ask the school nurse for a sixth grade physical form. Students must have a current physical using the required forms for any sports participation. These forms are also available on the HVRSD website> got the parent, health forms, **Pre=Participation Evaluation (Grades 6-12 only)**. Pages 1-2 are to be completed by a parent and taken to the physician's office along with pages 3-4 for the doctor to review and complete. Some physicians' offices charge to fill out

forms if the forms are not presented during the child's physical. Please remember to make a copy of all immunization records and physical forms for your records.

If you have no health insurance and live in Hopewell Township, call Mary Rosner at the Hopewell Township Health Department at 609-537-0238.

If you have no health insurance and live in Hopewell Boro or Pennington Boro, call the Montgomery Health Department at 609-359-8211.

To apply for health insurance for your children through New Jersey Family Care, please go to [www.njfamilycare.org](http://www.njfamilycare.org) or ask for an application from your school nurse, main office or registrar's office.

In an effort to avoid exclusion from school in September, 2019 and numerous calls or letters, we are providing this information now to give ample time to complete the requirements.

Should you have any questions regarding the immunization requirements or physical forms, please feel free to contact me at 609-737-4005, EXT. 5705.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

Pamela Vaccaro, BSN, RN, CSN

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