



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**Cedar County, Iowa**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**This letter contains important information regarding vaccinations for your 6<sup>th</sup> grade student.**

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Bureau of Immunization, now requires students enrolling in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, to have one dose of meningococcal (A,C,W,Y) vaccine received on or after 10 years of age. Meningococcal vaccines are very safe and effective at preventing meningococcal disease, which is extremely serious and can result in death, hearing loss, limb loss or brain damage. This administrative rule change was implemented in the 2017-2018 school year.

A Tdap vaccination has also been required for all students enrolling in 7<sup>th</sup> grade since January of 2013. Tdap vaccine protects against three serious diseases: tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (also called whooping cough).

While you are in your health care provider's office receiving these required vaccinations, there is one additional vaccine recommended at this age that helps to protect your child's health now and in the future:

- **HPV Vaccine:** Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine helps to protect both girls and boys from infection and cancers caused by HPV. In the United States, there are approximately 17,500 women and 9,300 men affected by HPV related cancers each year. Children should start and finish this two dose HPV vaccine series at age 11 or 12.

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of vaccines provided in your physician office. If this is not the case for you, please keep in mind that you may qualify for free vaccinations in our office if you meet one of the following criteria:

1. Are enrolled in Medicaid
2. Do not have insurance
3. Have insurance that does not cover vaccinations
4. Are American Indian or Alaska Native

The Cedar County Public Health office is located in the lower level of the courthouse at 400 Cedar Street in Tipton. We encourage you to talk to your health care provider today about protecting your son or daughter!

**Kim Mente, RN**  
Public Health Program Coordinator  
Cedar County Public Health  
(563) 886-2226