



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Cedar County, Iowa**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**This letter contains important information regarding vaccinations for your 7<sup>th</sup> grade student.**

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Bureau of Immunization, 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. A Tdap vaccination is also required for all students enrolling in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. 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 are three additional vaccines recommended at this age that help 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 26,177 women and 21,022 men affected by HPV related cancers each year. Children should start and finish this two dose HPV vaccine series at age 11 or 12.
- COVID-19 Vaccine
- Influenza Vaccine

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of vaccines provided in your physician office, our office also accepts BlueCross and United Healthcare insurance. If this is not the case for you, please be aware that your student may qualify for free vaccinations in our office if your student meets 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

We encourage you to talk to your health care provider today about protecting your student! If you would like to make an appointment at our office in the lower level of the courthouse, please call 563.886.2226.

**Whitney Randolph, RN**  
Public Health Program Coordinator  
Cedar County Public Health