

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This notice is to inform you that, as your child enters the 6th grade, the State of Colorado requires each child to have a **Tdap** (Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis) Immunization.

To receive this immunization you may call Pitkin County Public Health at 970-920-5420, or Garfield County Public Health at 970-945-6614, or your medical provider's office. Please bring proof of immunization by the first day of school.

Starting July 1, 2016, parents/guardians seeking non-medical (religious or personal belief) exemptions must submit non-medical exemption forms annually. Medical exemptions only need to be submitted once and require the signature of your child's doctor or advance practice nurse.

A health check-up that includes vaccinations is recommended for all children ages 11-12 years. Schedule your child's check-up appointment at least one month before school starts to make sure he or she gets all of the vaccinations needed for school.

Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap)

The Tdap vaccine protects against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). The vaccine is recommended for everyone 11 years of age and older. Tdap should replace one tetanus booster. Whooping cough is a very serious disease that is highly contagious, and causes coughing spells that make it hard to eat, drink, and even breathe. Whooping cough, if left untreated, can cause pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death. Infants and young babies are at the highest risk for serious illness, but older children and adults can be affected, as well. Getting vaccinated not only protects the individual, but also helps stop the spread of disease to others.

Please feel free to contact the Nurse or Health Assistant in your child's school with any questions or concerns.

Remember: We must have proof of the immunization for your child's school file or they run the risk of being excluded from school.

Sincerely,
The Health Office Staff