



Houston County Health Department
98 Cohen Walker Drive
Warner Robins, GA 31088

February 4, 2014

Dear Parents,

This letter is to notify you that the immunization requirements have changed effective July 1, 2014. Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, all currently enrolled children entering the 7th grade must meet the following requirements:

1. One dose of **Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis)** - This shot is recommended for preteens and teens and protects against three dangerous diseases, including whooping cough.
2. One dose of **Meningococcal conjugate vaccine** - This shot protects against infections that can cause brain damage, arm and leg amputations, kidney damage, and death. Preteens need one shot now and a booster at age 16.

This new rule also applies to new students who are entering grades 8 through 12 in a Georgia school. All other immunization requirements remain unchanged.

This change aligns with the current recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP).

These new requirements will increase vaccine coverage rates and protect Georgia children enrolled in school as well as family members and others in the community. We are optimistic that this reduction in disease rates will also reduce school absentee rates while improving student performance.

Please feel free to contact your local Health Department at (478)218-2000 if you have any questions, concerns, or would like resources for further information.

Sincerely,

Christina Sikes, RN
County Nurse Manager

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