



Catherine B. Templeton, Director

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

July 25, 2014

Dear School Superintendent:

Thank you for your continued efforts to assure that all entering seventh graders meet the school vaccine requirement for a documented dose of Tdap vaccine. School vaccine requirements and annual monitoring of the vaccination status of all students continues to be a very effective tool in the prevention and control of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks.

As you are aware, this past spring DHEC worked with many of you to provide school-located Tdap vaccination clinics. These clinics were extremely successful, with 6,600 sixth grade students receiving their Tdap. DHEC plans to continue this initiative for the upcoming school year. Offering spring Tdap school-located vaccination clinics for the current sixth grade students has proven to be a very effective strategy and allows for efficient use of both of our resources. In addition, this fall we will also be working to expand our school-located flu vaccination clinics.

As "Back-to-School" time approaches for the 2014-2015 school year and you identify entering seventh grade students in need of a Tdap vaccine, please refer them to their primary care provider, community vaccinator, or a health department clinic. DHEC health department clinics will be increasing immunization clinic appointments to meet the increased need during the back-to-school period. If you have planned, specific registration dates for incoming seventh grade students, please communicate this date to your local health departments so immunization clinics' appointments can be available for walk-in clients.

School nurses working under an annual DHEC Memorandum of Agreement now have online access to the statewide immunization registry (SCI Registry) to review and update immunization histories for students and to print the South Carolina Certificate of Immunization form. We hope this new technology will assist both school nurses and parents in meeting the need for documentation of vaccines for school.

Please contact the DHEC Immunization Division with any questions at 803.898.0460 or immunize@dhec.sc.gov.

Thanks for your help in protecting SC students from vaccine preventable diseases!

Sincerely,

Leanne S. Bailey, RN, MPH, Director
Division of Immunization