

Greeneville City Schools
Coordinated School Health Department

Friday, June 24, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to remind parents/guardians that all children entering 7th grade (including currently enrolled students) must turn in a form entitled Tennessee Department of Health Certificate of Information that includes documentation of the following immunizations:

- **Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis booster (“Tdap”)** – evidence of one Tdap dose given any time before 7th grade entry is required regardless of Td history
- **Verification of immunity to varicella – 2 doses** or credible history of disease

Why do I have to turn in this certificate?

The Tennessee Department of Health has developed immunization requirements for all students entering Tennessee schools. Most of these requirements must be met for admission to Pre-K, Kindergarten or when students are new to TN schools. However, there are a couple of requirements for **all** students entering the 7th grade. Students may not attend school if they do not meet the requirements by the stated deadline. Exemptions are allowed only for religious or medical reasons. The information listed in this letter should help you prepare for next school year. We urge you to take care of your child’s immunization needs now; don’t wait for the rush!

What if I can’t afford the vaccines?

Cost should not prevent you from vaccinating your child. Children and teens younger than age 19, who have TennCare or don’t have health insurance, can receive free vaccines through the federal Vaccines for Children (“VFC”) Program in participating private medical offices and health departments. Ask your child’s health care provider if they participate in VFC. If your child has insurance that doesn’t pay for vaccines and you can’t afford them, local health departments can provide the vaccine. Health departments and VFC providers charge a small administration fee to give the free vaccine, which can be adjusted based on your income.

When and where do I get the certificate?

Parents and guardians must get the certificate from a health department or health care provider licensed in Tennessee.

Where do I turn this in?

It should be turned into Greeneville Middle School. You may turn it in during registration blitz at the nurses table or drop it off at the GMS main office or guidance office anytime the school is open.

What is the deadline for turning in the certificate?

This certificate must be turned in by the Friday before Labor Day. Any students who have not turned in the certificate will not be allowed to attend school until this requirement is completed after the Labor Day break.

You can find out more about the vaccine requirements online at <https://www.tn.gov/health/article/required-immunizations> or you can contact your healthcare provider or local health department. For general information about vaccines, visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines . For questions about school policies or health examinations, contact the Coordinated School Health Department at 423-823-2916

Sincerely yours,

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