

Dear Parent/Guardian of 5th grade student:

The Code of Virginia mandates that any child entering the 6th grade **MUST** receive a booster of a pertussis-containing vaccine prior to the first day of school. Currently, the only booster available contains tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular-pertussis (tdap). Trade names for this vaccine include Adacel or Boostrix.

The only exemptions are:

- Your child will only be 10 years of age when they enter the 6th grade AND you and your provider are choosing Boostrix. A letter from your child's health care provider stating this is the reason for the exemption and the planned appointment date to get the immunization **MUST** be provided prior to the first day of school. As well, you **MUST** provide a copy of the updated immunization record the day after the indicated appointment date in order for your child to continue to attend school.
- Your child has a medical exemption due to allergic reaction, etc. to tdap. Again, a letter from the health care provider stating this is the reason for the exemption **MUST** be provided prior to the first day of school.

For those who are unable to go to the health department or your child's provider prior to the Sixth Grade Orientation at your child's middle school, the Tazewell County Health Department *MAY* be coming to your middle school to vaccinate rising 6th graders at the SIXTH grade orientation at no charge.

If your child gets the booster or gets the medical exemption completed by the health care provider **PRIOR** to the end to the school year, bring/send copies to your child's elementary school. If this is completed over the summer, bring copies by the middle school where your child will be enrolled as a sixth grader in the fall.

YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENROLL IF YOU DO NOT GET THE BOOSTER OR THE MEDICAL EXEMPTION PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL (August 2014).

Thank you,

School Health Services
Tazewell County Public Schools