

# VACCINES FOR YOUR PRETEEN

## Reminder for parents/guardians of students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall of 2014

Being immunized at check-ups with your health care provider helps to keep your children healthy, and protects our community. When children enter kindergarten, parents need to provide the school with vaccination records to meet the school immunization entry requirements. Until age 11 – 12 years, there are typically no additional recommended vaccines, except a yearly flu vaccination. The following vaccinations will be **recommended** by your child's health care provider when visiting the doctor's office before entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade:

- **Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Pertussis (Tdap):** This is a single shot that will protect your child against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).
- **Meningococcal (MCV4):** This is a two shot series, one dose now and another at age 16, that will protect your child against the bacteria that causes meningitis or sepsis (bloodstream infection).
- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV):** This is a three shot series, given over six months' time, that protects both boys and girls from cancers caused by this virus.
- **Influenza (Flu):** This is a yearly vaccination that will help protect your child from the flu. This vaccine is available as either an injection or a nasal mist.

Vermont's immunization regulation **requires** parents to provide documentation of one dose of Tdap vaccine before 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry. Additionally, residential students in grades 7 – 12 are **required** to have had one or two (age appropriate) doses of meningococcal vaccine.

An official immunization record must be presented to the school by the time your child enters 7<sup>th</sup> grade. If a student doesn't meet the vaccine requirements, or have a current exemption on file, they may be temporarily admitted only after the approval of school nurse or administrator. Failure to meet requirements may result in exclusion.

As a parent or guardian, you may want more information about the immunizations recommended for your child. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have up-to-date information on teen vaccines at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/for-parents.html>

Information about Vermont's regulations and required forms may be found at:

<http://healthvermont.gov/hc/imm/schoolentry.aspx>