



February 3, 2016

Dear Families,

Allen Village wanted to share information about a change in the State of Missouri's immunization requirements that will impact **current middle-school seventh-graders and high-school juniors**. The following immunizations will be required by the state beginning with the 2016-17 school year:

- All 2016-17 eighth-grade students are required to have one dose of Meningococcal vaccine and a Tdap booster.
- All 2016-17 high-school seniors are required to have two doses of Meningococcal vaccine, unless the first dose was administered when the student was 16 years of age or older.

We are communicating these new state requirements to families well in advance of the 2016-17 school year to provide you with several months to complete the immunizations.

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial infection and is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children from age 2 through 18 in the United States. Meningitis is an infection of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. Approximately 1,000 to 1,200 people get meningococcal disease in the United States each year. Around 10 to 15 percent of meningococcal disease patients will not survive, even when treated with antibiotics. Among survivors another 11 to 19 percent will lose their arms or legs, have problems with their nervous systems, become deaf or suffer seizures or strokes.

It is important to remember that your student will not be allowed to start the 2016-17 school year without providing proof of all required immunizations. For more information about the immunizations, please contact your child's doctor, the county health department at 816-404-6415, or Ms. Cobbins at 816-931-0177 ext. 2208.

Thank you,

Phyllis Washington, Superintendent