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Dear 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent,

According to the NEW Ohio Department of Health rules, incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders for the 2016-2017 school year are required to have one dose of both a Tdap and Meningitis vaccine for entry into 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Tdap vaccine protects against three diseases.

- Tetanus causes painful muscle spasms, usually all over the body.
- Diphtheria causes breathing problems, and could cause death.
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough) can be a very serious disease, especially for infants as it causes severe coughing spells and can cause death. Pertussis is spread through the air and is highly contagious. It is most commonly spread to infants from teens and adults that are close to them.

MCV4 (Meningitis) vaccine protects against four strains of Meningitis (A, C, W, Y).

- Meningitis is spread by coughing and sneezing of infected secretions. Teens are at increased risk for this bacterial infection because of their social behaviors. Meningitis can kill a healthy person in less than 48 hours. Survivors can have serious problems that last the rest of their lives.

**Other optional vaccines for teens include:**

**HPV (Human Papillomavirus) – three dose series protects against HPV disease.** HPV disease is the leading cause of cervical cancer in women and it causes genital warts in both males and females.

**VAR (Chicken Pox/Varicella) – two doses are needed to protect your child,** if they are not already immune from disease. This disease causes fever and rash. In some cases, especially in teens, serious health problems may occur.

**HAV (Hepatitis A) – two doses protect against Hepatitis A disease.** Hepatitis A causes fever, body aches, fever, yellowing of skin and eyes, severe stomach pain, and diarrhea.

**Meningitis B – two or three dose series** protects against one additional strain (B) or Meningitis. Disease causes stiff neck, fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, increased sensitivity to light, confusion. This vaccine is new this year and although it is recommended, it is not the required Meningitis vaccine for school.

August is typically a busy time as parents are getting their child up to date on their vaccinations before the school year. Please consider scheduling an appointment early in the summer to avoid the back-to-school rush. The health department has immunization clinics every Tuesday from 9:00 – 11:30 AM and 1:00 – 4:00 PM with extended hours until 6:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 9:30 – 11:45 AM.

*If your child has medical insurance, please bring a copy of their card.*

If you have any questions about these or any other vaccines or to schedule an appointment, please call the health department at 419-523-5608.

Sincerely,  
Putnam County Health Department

**Protecting and Promoting the Public's Health**