February 22, 2012

Virginia Immunization Requirement for Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)

Important Notice

Dear Parent or Guardian of a Rising 6th Grader:

Effective July 1, 2006, all students in Virginia must receive a booster dose of Tdap vaccine prior to entering sixth grade, if at least five years have passed since the last dose of tetanus toxoid-containing vaccine (DTP, DTaP, DT, or Td).

Please check your child’s immunization records carefully. If your child is required to have a Tdap booster, we ask that your child receive it and that you provide documentation to the school prior to June 19, 2012. This documentation can be a copy of your child’s immunization record, or a note from your physician listing the date of their most recent Tdap booster shot.

The Tdap booster can be obtained from your child’s physician. If your child is 11 years old, he or she should get the Tdap immunization and documentation should be provided to the school immediately. However, if your child is still 10 years old, he or she may receive the Tdap vaccine approved for 10 year olds or wait until the eleventh birthday to receive the vaccine approved for 11 year olds. If the eleventh birthday is after the first day of school, your child must have a medical exemption from the doctor stating when he or she will receive the Tdap in order to attend school.

Immunizations required for school are also available at the Fairfax County Health Department at no charge. Clinic locations and walk-in hours are listed on the back of this letter and are available online at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/clinic.htm. Students receiving immunizations at the Health Department must be accompanied by an adult, and students should bring their immunization records to the Health Department clinic with them.

It is most important that you attend to this matter immediately. Sixth graders may not start school in the fall without documentation of having had the Tdap booster or having had a tetanus-containing vaccine within the past five years.

Please contact the school public health office at 703-534-8343 or the school office at 703-288-8400 if you have any questions. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Hutzel
Principal
Fairfax County Health Department Clinic Sites

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd/hdclinicsite.htm

Annandale District Office
7611 Little River Turnpike Suite 400 –E (East Wing)
Annandale, VA 22003
703-534-8343  TTY 711

Herndon-Reston District Office
1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Suite 100
Reston, VA 20190-3310
703-481-4242  TTY 711

Mount Vernon District Office
8350 Richmond Highway, Suite 233
Alexandria, VA 22309-2344
703-704-5203  TTY 711

Springfield District Office
Cary Building, First Floor, Suite A100
8136 Old Keene Mill Rd
Springfield, VA 22152
703-569-1031  TTY 711

Joseph Willard Health Center
3750 Old Lee Highway
Fairfax City, VA 22030-6903
703-246-7100  TTY 711