

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We know that as parents you want to do everything possible to make sure your children are healthy and protected from preventable diseases. Did you know that vaccinations are the best way to prevent your children from getting many diseases? Vaccine protection for flu and other diseases will be made available to your children at the school clinic this summer.

As you are aware, **The PA Dept. of Health requires that all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade** be immunized with the following vaccines. These vaccines will be offered at the school vaccine clinic organized by the American Healthcare group:

- **1 dose of Tdap** protects against Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Whooping Cough (Pertussis)
- **1 dose of Menactra** protects against Meningococcal disease (Strains A,C, W, Y)

Since protection decreases over time, a **booster dose of Menactra is required for high school students age 16 through 18 (or entry into 12th grade)**. The meningococcal vaccines ensure that your teen will continue to have protection during high school and college years when they are at highest risk of meningococcal disease.

- **Booster dose of Menactra** offers continued protection against Meningococcal A,C,W, Y strains and will also be offered.

Catch-up for **Varivax** (Chicken Pox) and **MMR II** (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) will also be available for students in other grades who are not fully up-to-date.

**All children are eligible.** If your child is covered by private commercial health insurance, the child's health insurance will be billed directly. Parents/Guardians will not be billed for any amount unless the insurance company does not pay. Students covered by Medicaid or without health insurance coverage can also participate. Cash, checks or credit cards will be accepted for those students with Medicaid or with no health insurance coverage.

Vaccines will be administered at the clinic by the American Healthcare Group. **The clinic will be located at the Upper St. Clair High School on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am by appointment only.** Please [contact your school nurse](#) to schedule an appointment.

If you would like your child to receive any of these vaccines at the school clinic please do the following:

- 1) Complete the attached [Vaccine For Students Consent Form and Record](#).
- 2) Please return the completed form by August 16, 2017 to School Nurse. The completed consent form must be received in order to vaccinate your child.
- 3) Please inform the School Nurse of any of the following prior to the vaccination clinic:
  - If you decide you no longer want a vaccine for your child.
  - If there are any changes in your child's health.
  - If your child receives any medications or vaccines within 30 days of the clinic.

*If you have a religious or philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction opposing your child receive immunizations a statement in writing signed by a parent/guardian must be given to the school nurse before the first day of school.*

*If your child has a medical exemption a signed certificate by a licensed health care professional must be given to the school nurse before the first day of school.*

**If you have any questions please contact your [school nurse](#).**