

Runnemede Public Schools

Health Office

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6th Grade Immunization Requirements 2009-2010 school year

The New Jersey Commissioner of Health & Senior Services has recently approved amendments to the NJ Sanitary Code, Chapter 14 (Immunization of Pupils in Schools). These immunization requirements have been in effect since September 1, 2008. In order for all of us to plan ahead and not be negligent with the requirements, this letter is to provide you with ample notice and the necessary immunization information that you will need to keep your child's records up to date. **Please understand that your child will need to have the immunizations before entering school on September 3, 2009.** If your child already received these immunizations, please obtain a copy from your child's physician's office with the exact date and names of the vaccinations given. **This document should be mailed or handed into the main office by September 1st. If the health office does not have the proper documentation by September 1st, your child can be excluded from school until the immunization requirement is met.**

This is a statewide amendment that is enforced. The State of New Jersey will be sending out a representative this fall to audit schools in order to check for noncompliance with the immunization amendments. If any child in the New Jersey school system is not up to date with immunizations, the school will be fined and the child excluded immediately.

If your child is entering the 6th grade in September the requirements for sixth graders are as follows:

- 1) Tdap:** (Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Pertussis): for pupils entering grade 6 on or after September 1, 2008, and born on or after 1-1-97. *(A child does not need a Tdap dose until 5 years after the last DTP/Dtap or Td dose)*

***Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis are all caused by bacteria. Diphtheria and Pertussis are spread from person to person. Tetanus enters the body through cuts, scratches, or wounds.**

- 2) Meningococcal:** For pupils entering grade 6 on or after September 1, 2008 and born on or after 1-1-97.

***Meningitis disease is a serious bacterial illness. Meningococcal disease is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2 through 18 years of age in the United States. Meningococcal disease also causes blood infections.**

If you should have any questions please contact the health office at 856-931-5353, or contact your primary physician's office for reference.