

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Iowa Department of Public Health has made changes to the Iowa Immunization law which began during the 2017/18 school year. This change requires that all students entering 7th grade have both a Meningococcal vaccine and a Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis/whooping cough) booster before school starts this fall.

The Tdap requirement has been put in place since the 2013-14 school year and requires a booster dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, and acellular Pertussis containing vaccine for students entering 7th grade, *regardless of the interval since the last Tetanus/Diphtheria containing vaccine*. Pertussis (whooping cough) is a very contagious disease that causes violent coughing fits that make it hard to breathe.

Meningococcal disease is a life threatening illness that is caused by bacteria that infects the brain, blood, and spinal cord. It easily spreads in crowded settings. This vaccine will be required prior to both the 7th and 12th grades. The Men B vaccine alone will not meet the Iowa Immunization Law.

All students entering 7th grade must have proof of having both the Meningococcal and the Tdap vaccines **before school starts in August**, unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption. If your student received immunizations outside of Iowa (will not be listed in IRIS), then a copy will need to be sent to the school. See Iowa Immunization Law brochure:

<https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/2836/download?inline=>

There will be **no** grace/extension period for the implementation of this requirement.

Now is a great time for your child to receive these immunization requirements and beat the back-to-school rush by making an appointment for your incoming 7th grader. Cresco Medical Clinic is accepting calls and making appointments at this time so please do not hesitate to contact them at 563-547-2022. You may also choose to have a sports physical done over the summer and that would also be an opportune time to ask for updated immunization.

If you have questions, please contact us at shalweg@howard-winn.k12.ia.us or kmartin@howard-winn.k12.ia.us.

Thank you for your time and attention to this requirement.

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Crestwood School Nurses