



## School Health Services

January 5, 2023

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> grade parent(s)/guardian(s),

The state of Ohio requires all students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade to have the meningococcal vaccine (also known as MCV4, Menevo or Menactra) in addition to one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis).

As you take your 6<sup>th</sup> grade student for their well check, they may receive these immunizations. Please send a copy of the updated immunization record to their school clinic so our records can be updated. *We do not receive notification when students receives vaccines from any outside source, including Akron Children's Hospital providers, and rely on parents/guardians to provide this documentation.*

### **Meningococcal meningitis**

Meningococcal meningitis is a rare but serious disease that develops rapidly and can claim a life in as little as one day. Of those who survive, approximately one in five are left with serious medical problems like amputation, deafness, and brain damage. Teens are at increased risk of meningococcal meningitis. This increased risk may be due to activities like sharing utensils and kissing.

### **Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap)**

Tetanus causes painful tightening of the muscles, usually all over your body; diphtheria causes a thick covering in the back of the throat and can also lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure, and even death; pertussis causes coughing spells and can lead to pneumonia, seizures, brain damage, and death, particularly in infants.

Vaccination is the best way to protect someone from getting the disease. You may obtain these vaccines from your child's health care provider. Local pharmacy or other community resource. Vaccines are also available at the county health department.

Students who do not provide documentation of these immunizations to the school before the start of the 2023-2024 school year may be subject to exclusion. If there are medical/religious or philosophical reasons your child cannot receive immunizations, please contact the school clinic for an Immunization Exemption Form. Please note, Immunization Exemptions Forms must be re-signed annually.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Krystal Nykaza RN".

Krystal Nykaza BSN, RN  
Clinical Coordinator  
Cuyahoga Falls City Schools  
Akron Children's Hospital  
School Health Services