



October 10, 2012

Dear Parent or Guardian,

In an effort to maintain the health of your child and prevent transmission of illnesses, it is important for me to have updated medical information on file in the health office. The necessary medical forms include the medical information sheet (orange), the potassium iodide permission sheet (yellow), a permission to administer medications should your child require a prescription medication during school hours (pink), and a copy of the most recent physical and immunization forms from the pediatrician.

As of this year, all children in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are required to have **one Tdap vaccine and two varicella vaccines or proof of chickenpox illness**. Tdap is a booster vaccine that will protect children from pertussis, which is a respiratory illness more commonly known as whooping cough. This is a very contagious illness that is transmitted from person to person through coughing or sneezing. The illness causes a distinct violent and fast “whoop” sounding cough that could last for up to 10 weeks or longer. Although most complications from this illness are noted in infants, children with pertussis may be at risk for weight loss and pneumonia. Your child’s pediatrician would be able to provide you with more information about the illness.

Children may be particularly susceptible to transmission in a school environment given the number of close encounters during the day. Given the nature of the illness, all updated immunizations must be received **no later than October 25<sup>th</sup>** or your child may be required to stay at home until they have been immunized. If your child has a medical or religious exemption for these immunizations, a letter must be provided to the school.

For more information regarding pertussis or varicella, you may visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or contact your pediatrician.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Kacie Gaudet, RN, CPNP