



Joliet Public Schools District 86

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HEALTH OFFICE ALERT

January 2012,

Dear Parents/Guardian,

The State of Illinois Department of Public Health has revised their guidelines for the Diptheria, Pertussis, Tetanus Vaccine.

The incidence of whooping cough (Pertussis) has been on the increase. As of September 1, 2010 Illinois had reported 445 cases of Pertussis with 45% of the cases occurring in school age children. In an effort to protect the rest of the community, the IDPH has adopted the following new policy for **Tdap Vaccine**.

STUDENT ENTERING GRADES 6 THROUGH 12 WHO HAVE NOT ALREADY RECEIVED Tdap ARE REQUIRED TO RECEIVE 1 Tdap DOSE REGARDLESS OF THE INTERVAL SINCE THE LAST Dtap, DT OR Td Dose. This new law will be enforced at the beginning of the August 2012-2013 school year.

PLEASE check with your doctor to determine if your child's last vaccination was a Tdap. If it was not given, your child will require another vaccination. Attached you will find a physical form, your doctor must fill it out to indicate the vaccination your child has received. Please bring the form back to your school nurse and make a second copy of the form to keep at home.

This is to be completed and proof forwarded to the school nurse before the 1st day of school in August 2012-2013. If your child is 11 years old or older, and has not received a Tdap vaccination, please obtain it as soon as possible and forward proof to the school nurse this school year. Attached you will find a physical form to be filled out by your doctor.

REMINDER:

- **INCOMING 6TH AND 9TH GRADE STUDENTS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR OF AUGUST 2012-2013 MUST PRESENT A COMPLETED PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM/UP-TO-DATE IMMUNIZATIONS (INCLUDING Tdap) BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.**
- **6TH GRADE STUDENT ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO HAVE A DENTAL EXAMINATION FORM TO BE COMPLETED.**
- **SPORTS PHYSICALS ARE VALID FOR ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OBTAINED.**

Thank you for your cooperation.

Melissa Onesto
Health Coordinator