



New Immunization Policy Change - Effective September 2011

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On March 11, 2010, the Pennsylvania Department of Health notified all school districts in the Commonwealth that the final passage of new immunization guidelines had taken place by the State Legislature in Harrisburg. These guidelines stipulate that all children, in grades K through 12, attending school must receive a second dose of the Varicella Vaccine, or show proof of immunity.

Beginning in September 2011, any child that has not received the two doses of the Varicella Vaccine will be considered provisionally enrolled. Provisional enrollment means that you will have an eight month period of time to comply with the new guidelines. After eight months, your child will be excluded from school until the immunization was received and proof of the immunization is sent to the health room.

In addition to the varicella booster, **all students currently in the 6th grade** need to receive the Tdap and Meningococcal Vaccine (MCV), as this is a requirement for entering the 7th grade. The school nurses will be sending letters home to families of all students that still require one or more of these vaccines. The letter will indicate which of the vaccine(s) your child still requires.

Please call your doctor's office to schedule an appointment for your child to receive the vaccine(s). If your child has already received the vaccines, please obtain an updated copy of your child's immunization record that shows proof of the vaccines and submit it to your child's school nurse.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Bellefonte Area School District Nurses