## Montezuma Community Schools

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Mr. Dave Hoeger, Superintendent Mr. Tim Hoffman, Secondary Principal

Mr. Kurtis Hanna, Elementary Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian of students entering 7th and 12th grade,

The Iowa Department of Public Health has made changes to the Iowa Immunization law for the start of the 2017/18 school year and following school years. This change requires that all students entering 7th grade have both a Meningococcal vaccine and a Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis/whopping cough) booster before school starts in the 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 (whopping 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. The vaccine will be required prior to both the 7th and 12th grades.

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. Iowa law states that medical and religious exemptions do also exist and are available in lieu of being up to date on all immunizations. Please contact your family physician for the exemptions is this is the avenue you need to pursue for immunizations.

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 and 12th grader.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 641-623-5121 or [hdengler@montezuma.k12.ia.us](mailto:nschneiter@turkey-v.k12.ia.us) or contact **Grinnell Public Health at 641-236-2385.**

Thank you for your time and attention to this requirement,  
  
  
  
Hannah Dengler  
Montezuma Community School Nurse