



Parents of rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:

**Important Changes to School Health Entrance Requirements:**

Each parent or guardian is responsible for providing written proof from a healthcare provider that documents their child's age-appropriate immunizations(s). This will include the prescribed number of doses of vaccine(s) and administration dates. All students enrolled in Bedford County Public Schools must provide this information, regardless of whether participating in person or with remote learning. Vaccines must be administered as outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) and *must be administered within time and age requirements* ([VDH School Requirements: Immunization](#)).

**Children vaccinated in accordance with either the current harmonized schedule or the harmonized catch-up schedules (including meeting all minimum age and interval requirements) are considered to be appropriately immunized for school attendance.**

To align with current recommendations, the General Assembly passed HB 2215 that changes the grade in which students receive tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine from the sixth to the seventh grade. *A routine adolescent booster dose of Tdap should not be administered to students younger than 11 years of age*. However, students who received a Tdap immunization at age ten **will not** need another Tdap vaccine to enter seventh grade.

This legislation amends the [Code of Virginia § 32.1-46.A.4](#) so that it will require:

***“A minimum of three or more properly spaced doses of acellular pertussis vaccine. One dose shall be administered on or after the fourth birthday. A booster dose shall be administered prior to entry into the seventh grade.”***

**Meningococcal Conjugate (MenACWY) Vaccine** - Effective July 1, 2021, a **minimum of 2 doses** of MenACWY vaccine. The first dose should be administered prior to entering **7<sup>th</sup> grade**. The final dose should be administered prior to entering **12<sup>th</sup> grade**.

If your child has NOT had these booster vaccines you must provide the proper documentation **prior** to the start of the 2021-2022 school year for these immunizations. **Phone calls or notes from parents are not acceptable forms of meeting this requirement.** *To avoid delay in getting your child's schedule* please make every effort to meet this requirement by providing the school with one of the following by **July 15, 2021:**

- 1) *Proof of having the booster vaccines.*
- 2) *A notarized religious exemption form with a raised seal or registration number.*
- 3) *Medical exemption form signed by your physician indicating temporary or permanent exemption on the Virginia School Entrance Health Form.*

The school division may **exclude** your child from school attendance if this requirement is not met. **Teacher assignment or class schedules will not be released until this health information is provided to the school and verified.** If you need a copy of your child's current school immunization record, please request a copy from the nurse and one will be provided within three business days. It is strongly suggested you discuss these changes with your health care provider in order to schedule your child soon to meet this school health requirement. Thank you for your prompt attention to this requirement.