



6th Grade Immunization Requirements

Dear Parents and Guardians of Incoming 6th grade students,

All children attending schools in Indiana have **immunization requirements** set forth by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Students going into 6th grade must receive the Tdap (Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis), MCV4 (meningococcal conjugate), and Hepatitis A immunizations in order to meet the requirements set forth by the state.

There is also one additional **recommended** series. This additional **recommended** immunization is HPV (for Human Papilloma Virus protection). Please see the attached handout for further information. Please discuss with your doctor any questions or concerns you may have regarding these immunizations.

Please provide this document OR a copy of your child's immunization records to the school office no later than the first day of your child's 6th grade school year.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO A PHYSICIANS SIGNATURE BELOW IS TO OBTAIN A COPY OF YOUR CHILD'S IMMUNIZATION RECORD AND SEND IT TO SCHOOL. OR HAVE IT FAXED TO 260-432-6899 ATTN: SCHOOL NURSE

Student's name _____ Grade _____

Date of Birth _____

Tdap (Tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis) Immunization date _____

MCV4 (Meningitis) Immunization date _____

Hepatitis A Immunization dates _____

HPV Immunization dates (optional) _____

Physician's Signature _____ **Date** _____

HPV and Hepatitis A ... Did you know?!?

Genital human papillomavirus (also called HPV) is the most common sexually transmitted infection (STI), infecting more than 79 million people. There are more than 40 HPV types that can infect males and females. Most people who become infected with HPV do not even know they have it.

How do people get HPV?

HPV is passed on through any type of sexual contact even when the infected partner has no signs or symptoms. Most infected persons do not realize they are infected or that they are passing the virus on. It is also possible to get more than one type of HPV.

Signs & Symptoms

Most people with HPV do not develop symptoms or health problems from it. In 90% of cases, the body's immune system clears HPV naturally within two years. It is also possible for the virus to remain in a "sleeping" or dormant state and be reactivated years later. Unfortunately there is no way to know which people who get HPV will go on to develop cancer or other health issues. .

What are the potential health problems of HPV?

Cervical cancer and other HPV related cancers usually do not have symptoms until it is quite advanced, very serious and hard to treat. For this reason, it is important for women to get regular screening for cervical cancer.

2011 CDC: Human Papillomavirus (HPV), What is HPV?
Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/WhatIsHPV.html>

Is it Moral to Administer HPV Vaccines?

The Catholic Medical Association (CMA) has a position paper on HPV vaccination. They answer this question in this fashion:

The fact that HPV is spread primarily by sexual contact does not render vaccination against it unethical. Healing and preventing diseases, no matter what their source, are acts of mercy and a moral good. Prevention of HPV infection is distinct from, and should not be construed as encouraging, the behavior by which HPV is spread.

2007 Catholic Medical Association: Position Paper. Retrieved from
<http://www.immunize.org/talking-about-vaccines/pdf/Position-Paper-on-HPV-Immunization.pdf>

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). HAV is found in the stool of people with hepatitis A. It is usually spread by close personal contact and sometimes by eating food or drinking water containing HAV. A person who has hepatitis A can easily pass the disease to others within the same household. Hepatitis A can cause: "flu-like" illness, jaundice (yellow skin or eyes, dark urine), severe stomach pains and diarrhea (children).

People with hepatitis A often have to be hospitalized (up to about 1 person in 5). Adults with hepatitis A are often too ill to work for up to a month. Sometimes, people die as a result of hepatitis A (about 3-6 deaths per 1,000 cases). Hepatitis A vaccine can prevent hepatitis A.

CDC: Hepatitis A Vaccination. Retrieved from
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/hep-a.html>