

Hopewell Valley Regional School District  
425 S. Main Street  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
www. hvrsd.org

September 20, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians of 5<sup>th</sup> grade students:

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services updated the immunization requirements for students **entering Grade 6. These new requirements are for students entering Grade 6 on or after September 1, 2008 and born on or after January 1, 1997.**

- Students must have one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) and one dose of meningococcal vaccine. Tdap is a booster vaccination and not the same formulation as the DTaP your child received at a younger age.
- The Tdap vaccine must be given on or after the 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and no sooner than five years after any DTP, DTaP, or Td vaccination. (A child does not need a Tdap dose until FIVE years after the last DTP/DTaP or Td dose.)
- Students must have one dose of a meningococcal-containing vaccine, such as the medically-preferred meningococcal conjugate vaccine.
- For students who are eleven (11) years old before September 1, 2012 these immunizations must be completed before they enter grade 6 in September 2012. Those students who are not eleven (11) years old by September 1, 2012 must complete the immunizations as soon as they turn eleven (11) years old to remain compliant and be able to stay in school.

When your child receives these vaccines, please submit this information in writing to the school nurse. The dates of the vaccines must be indicated on a form signed by your physician. **We must have this documentation before your child enters grade 6, so please do not wait to send in documentation if your child has already received these immunizations. The elementary school nurses will document the immunizations and this information will be forwarded to Timberlane.**

Please note that these requirements apply to all 6<sup>th</sup> graders in New Jersey regardless of their school choice.

Please contact your health care provider to schedule these immunizations as soon as possible. Even if your child will not be eleven years until later in the year, it would be beneficial to make an appointment early to avoid a rush at the last minute.

If you are also visiting your physician for your child's physical, please ask the school nurse for a **sixth grade physical form. Students must have a current physical using the required forms for any sports participation.** These forms are available on the HVRSD website: go to parent, health forms, Timberlane, form H-02a-“Physical Examination Form / Athletic Pre-Participation Form”. There are two parts to this form; Part A is to be completed by the parent and taken to the physician's office along with Part B. Some physicians' offices charge to fill out forms if the forms are not presented during the child's physical.

**If you have no medical insurance and live in Hopewell Township,** the Lawrence Township Health Department conducts Child Health Conferences for physicals, immunizations and regular childhood screenings. Their website is <http://www.lawrencetwp.com/health.html>. You can also call 609-844-7093 for an appointment.

**If you have no medical insurance and live in Hopewell Borough or Pennington Borough,** the Child Health Conference for the Montgomery Township Health Department is administered by the Community Visiting Nurse Association. Their website is [www.communityvna.org](http://www.communityvna.org) or you may contact them at 908-725-9355 to make an appointment.

**In an effort to avoid exclusion from school in September 2012 and numerous calls and letters, we are providing this information now to give ample time to complete the requirements.**

Should you have any questions regarding the immunization requirements or physical forms, please feel free to confer with your school nurse. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.