

[INSERT NURSE NAME], School Nurse

[INSERT SCHOOL ADDRESS]

[INSERT CURRENT DATE]

Dear Parent or Guardian:

[SCHOOL NAME] is working with Pittsburgh Public Schools and the Allegheny County Health Department to get the word out about 7th grade vaccines in anticipation of your child's return to school this fall. Vaccines are the best way to protect your child from a number of serious diseases.

Why not take a few minutes today to schedule a vaccination appointment for your preteen this summer? When you call, let your doctor's office know you'd like meningococcal, HPV, and Tdap vaccines before school starts and a flu shot as soon as the vaccine is available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, this school district, and the Allegheny County Health Department all recommend these for your son or daughter.

- Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine is recommended for preteens at age 11 or 12 for protection against bacteria that cause meningococcal disease. Meningococcal disease can lead to death in as little as 48 hours. A second shot is recommended at age 16 to continue providing protection.
- HPV vaccine is recommended for preteens at age 11 or 12 to protect against cancers and other diseases caused by HPV infection. Both boys *and* girls should receive three doses of HPV vaccine to protect against these serious diseases. Your preteen should receive the second dose a month or two after the first dose, and the third dose six months after the first dose.
- One dose of Tdap vaccine is recommended for preteens at age 11 or 12 to continue providing protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).
- Preteens and teens should also get the flu vaccine every year, ideally as soon as the vaccine is available.

Pennsylvania requires Tdap and meningococcal for 7th grade school entry, and we strongly recommend the HPV and flu vaccines. To learn more about state immunization requirements and adolescent vaccines, go to: www.immunize.org/laws and www.cdc.gov/vaccines/teens.

We've enclosed an immunization reminder card with this letter. You can use this to bring your child's immunization records to school once he or she has been vaccinated. As always, let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME OF SCHOOL NURSE]

Your School Nurse

[PHONE NUMBER]; Office Hours: [INSERT OFFICE HOURS FOR VISITS].

Approved by:

Karen Hacker, MD, MPH

Director

INSERT NAME

PPS Representative

