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Changes to School Rules for Pre-Teen and Teen Vaccines

Kingsford, Michigan. March 26, 2010 – Most parents are diligent about having their babies vaccinated. Unfortunately some parents don't realize that adolescents need vaccinations to keep them well and give them a healthy foundation for adulthood.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) provides guidance to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on the control of vaccine-preventable diseases. Along with the recommended childhood vaccines, some vaccines are now routinely recommended by the ACIP for pre-teens and teens. Children 11-12 years of age should be given meningococcal (MCV4) and tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccines. HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine is routinely recommended for girls at 11-12 years of age and can also be given to boys. Older adolescents who have not received these vaccines should be immunized, too. In addition, pre-teens and teens should get influenza vaccine every year.

Beginning January 1, 2010, all sixth grade students who are 11 years of age and older, as well as all children 11 through 18 years of age who are changing school districts, will need:

- Two doses of varicella (Var) vaccine or history of chickenpox disease
- One dose of meningococcal (MCV4 OR MPSV4) vaccine
- One dose of tetanus/diphtheria/acellular pertussis (Tdap) vaccine (if 5 years have passed since last dose of tetanus/diphtheria vaccine - DTaP, Td or DT)

Below are just a few reasons why now is a good time for parents to review their student's immunization record and schedule an appointment:

- ❖ Beat the back to school rush for appointments in the fall;
- ❖ Before school and extracurricular activities begin again;
- ❖ Before they leave home for college, and;
- ❖ While they may be eligible for free vaccines. (Eligible if they have no insurance coverage for immunizations)

For more information visit: www.michigan.gov/teenvaccines. To schedule an appointment for immunizations contact your private provider or the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department at (906) 774-1868 or (906)265-9913.

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