

PORTAGE COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

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DuWayne O. Porter, M.P.H., R.S.
Health Commissioner

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Dear 6th grade Parent,

As you may or may not know, next year's 7th graders will be required to have a Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine prior to the start of the school year. This is a new requirement for the 2010/2011 school year. To assist parents in meeting this requirement, the **Portage County Health Department** will be coming to your school to administer this vaccine to your child. If you want them to receive the vaccine from the health department, the enclosed permission slip needs to be filled out and returned to the school by _____. The schedule immunization date is _____. The vaccine we receive is from the Ohio Department of Health and the Portage County Health Department will only charge a **\$10.00 administration fee** and if you have Buckeye, Caresource, Unison or Medicaid there will be no charge but you must provide the health department with the billing number.

Even though Tdap is the only required vaccine for your child, there are a number of other recommended adolescent vaccines available.

- **Meningitis** (MCV4- one dose to protect against meningitis) – Teens are at increased risk for this bacterial infection. Meningitis can kill a healthy person in less than 48 hours. Survivors can have serious problems that last the rest of their lives.
- **Hepatitis A** (HAV – two dose series to protect against Hepatitis A) – HAV is a disease that causes severe liver disease. It is usually spread by close personal contact and sometimes eating food or drinking water containing Hepatitis A virus.
- **HPV** (Human Papillomavirus – three dose series to protect against HPV disease) – HPV disease is the leading cause of cervical cancer in women, and genital warts in males.
- **Chicken Pox** (Varicella – two doses to protect against chicken pox if not already immune from disease) – this disease causes fever and rash. In some cases, especially in teens, serious health problems may occur.

If you have any questions about these or any other vaccines, please call the Portage County health Department, Nursing Clinic at (330) 298-4490 and ask to speak to a nurse.

Thank you,

Rosemary Ferraro, RN, BSN
Nursing Supervisor