

## 7th Grade Immunization Requirements

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Iowa Department of Public Health requires that all students entering 7th grade have the Meningococcal and Tdap vaccines before school starts this fall.

Students entering 7th grade, will need proof of one dose of meningococcal vaccine and one dose of Tdap vaccine.

All students entering 7th grade must provide proof of having the Meningococcal and Tdap vaccines **before school starts in August**. Documentation of a valid Certificate of Immunization Exemption (Religious or Medical) or Provisional Certificate of Immunization may be submitted in lieu of a Certificate of Immunization. There will be no grace/extension period for the implementation of this requirement. **Therefore, your child will not be allowed to start the school year unless I have received proof of this immunization.**

Now is a great time for your child to receive these immunization requirements and beat the back-to-school rush by making an appointment for your incoming 7th grader.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [nicki.schultz@chariton.k12.ia.us](mailto:nicki.schultz@chariton.k12.ia.us).

Thank you for your time and attention to this requirement.

Sincerely,

Nicki Schultz, RN  
School Nurse  
Chariton Community School District

**All students entering, advancing or transferring into 7th grade** will need proof of an adolescent tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough) booster immunization (called “Tdap”), and Meningococcal vaccines for school in the fall.

**Tdap** is a booster vaccine for older children, adolescents, and adults. It safely protects against three dangerous diseases: whooping cough (also called pertussis), tetanus, and diphtheria.

**Pertussis (also known as whooping cough)** is a contagious disease that causes violent coughing fits that make it hard to breathe. It spreads easily when someone with the disease coughs or sneezes. The symptoms can last for months. Whooping cough is particularly dangerous for young babies.

**Tetanus**—causes a severe, painful tightening (spasms) of muscles, including of the jaw (“lockjaw”), which can limit swallowing and breathing.

**Diphtheria**—is a throat infection that can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure and death.

**Meningococcal** — Meningococcal disease is a life threatening illness that is caused by bacteria that infects the brain, blood, and spinal cord. It can easily spread in crowded settings.