

Health Requirements for Students 2016-2017 School Year

Our school nurse would like to remind parents of the following requirements:

Physical Exam Requirements: All students entering Preschool, Kindergarten, 6th, and 9th grades will need physicals before the beginning of the new school year. Sports physicals do not qualify for a school physical. Please make sure the Health History part of the physical exam is filled out and signed by the parent or guardian.

Shots Required: Immunizations must also be up to date. The usual boosters needed include: DTaP, Polio, MMR, and Varicella for Kindergartners and Tdap, Meningitis, and Varicella for 6th graders. A lead assessment is also required for Preschool or Kindergarten students when they first enter school. Do not forget, newer requirements include: Chicken Pox Vaccine (or proof of disease verified by parent or doctor) for Preschoolers through 10th grade, HIB (haemophilus influenza B) for Preschoolers; and Hepatitis B vaccine (series of three shots) for Preschoolers and 5th – 12th graders.

Vision Requirements: All children entering Kindergarten, or upon first entry into an Illinois school beyond Kindergarten (i.e. grades 1 – 12) are required to have an eye exam performed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist. Exam may be done any time after October 15, 2015.

Dental Requirements: Dental exams are required for all students entering Kindergarten, 2nd, and 6th grades this fall. You may get this exam done any time after November 15, 2015. Call your dentist now to schedule appointments.

It is not too early to get your child's physical and boosters done now. In fact, you can avoid the rush. DO NOT wait until the last minute. Vaccine is available – you can get your child's boosters anytime.

Update on Additional Vaccines:

1. Because of "Breakthrough" cases of Chicken Pox after just one dose, a second dose of Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccine is now required for all students who have not had Chicken Pox disease. If your child is in grades Preschool through 6th now (2015-2016) he/she has already had one dose.
2. Menactra (bacterial meningitis) vaccine is now required for all students beginning in the 2015 – 2016 school year. Bacterial Meningitis is often fatal and does strike middle and high school students as well as college age students. The initial shot will be given upon entering 6th grade and then a booster at age 16.

These vaccines are all available at the Effingham County Health Department and your local doctor's office. It is important to receive these vaccines before the age of 19 to take advantage of the State vaccine pricing (for those who are eligible). For questions about State vaccine pricing or to make an appointment, please call the Health Department at 217-342-9237 or contact your doctor's office.