

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Re: **Grade 9 School Immunization Program**

Each year, Alberta Health Services, Public Health reviews immunization records as part of the school immunization program. The following vaccines are recommended for Grade 9 students. These vaccines are free and offered in school.

- A booster dose of **diphtheria, tetanus, acellular pertussis (dTap)** vaccine.
- A dose of **meningococcal (Groups A, C, Y, W-135) conjugate** vaccine.
- **Any routine childhood or school vaccines** that may have been missed according to our immunization record for this student.

In this package, you will get a consent form and an information sheet for each vaccine recommended for this student unless the vaccine was previously declined.

To have the student immunized at school:

- 1) Read the information (consent form and vaccine information).
- 2) Make sure the student's legal name, spelling of the name, date of birth, gender and Alberta Personal Health Number are correct on the consent form. If any information is incorrect or missing, fill in the correct information.
- 3) List and describe the student's allergies on the consent form.
- 4) Phone the nurse for your school if the student has:
 - had a severe reaction to any immunization in the past
 - any conditions that the information sheet talks about as a concern
 - a weakened immune system
- 5) Sign and date each consent form. Return the consent form(s) to the school within 1 week.
- 6) The student will not be immunized at school without your consent.
- 7) If you wish to withdraw your consent, call the public health nurse who gives immunizations in your school at the phone number in this package.
- 8) If you consent to the immunizations, your consent will be valid until all doses are completed. The student will be immunized during the current school year if possible. If this is not possible (e.g., student absent on immunization days), the school nurse will contact you to bring the student to the public health office to be immunized.
- 9) If your child's health status changes, please let the school nurse know.

If you DO NOT wish to have the student immunized for 1 or more vaccines:

- Print **REFUSED** across the consent form for the vaccine you are refusing. This means that you are making an informed choice and are aware of the risks of refusing the vaccine.
- **Do not** sign the consent form. Return the consent form to the school within 1 week.
- If you are refusing consent because the student has already had the vaccine (e.g., for travel or after an injury), return the refused consent form to the school with a copy of the student's immunization record.

If you have any questions or need more information, call the public health nurse who gives immunizations in your school, at the phone number in this package.

Sincerely,

Alberta Health Services, Public Health