

Health Update

January 26th, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This message is to inform you that there are additional immunizations required to enter 7th grade per California law, Health and Safety Code 120325-129375. By law, schools are required to collect vaccines information, monitor immunizations, and enforce vaccine requirements for school. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) annually audits school districts immunization rates and records.

All students entering 7th grade must have a Tdap booster given AFTER THE AGE OF 7 PRIOR TO attending the first day of school. Our goal is to obtain these immunizations prior to the end of this school year.

1. Please provide proof of completed immunization no later than **August 9th, 2024** to facilitate a smooth start to the school year. Students that do not have proof of immunization by the beginning of school will not be allowed on campus until proof is obtained.

OR

2. Medical Exemption by a state approved physician is issued. *Note: Medical exemptions are only valid if they are issued using the California Immunization Registry-Medical Exemption website (CAIR-ME).

Assembly Bill No. 659, the Cancer Prevention Act, requires schools to notify families of 6th graders about human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination recommendations.

Additionally, the California Health and Safety Code *recommends* that pupils are fully immunized against human papillomavirus (HPV) before admission or advancement to the eighth-grade level of any private or public elementary or secondary school.

What we know about HPV.

- HPV may be contracted via skin-to-skin contact and transmission increases with direct mucus membrane contact (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, 2023).
- HPV has been directly linked to head, neck, larynx, and throat cancer and cervical cancer (Mount Sinai, 2022) and causes nearly 50,000 incidences of cancer annually.
- The HPV vaccine is 97% effective in preventing HPV related cancers (National Institutes of Health, 2022).
- Thirteen percent of 10 year olds have already been infected with HPV.

Given that 10% of 13 year olds are infected with HPV, **children ages 11-12 years should get two doses of HPV vaccine, given 6 to 12 months apart**. HPV vaccines can be given starting at age 9 years. Talk with your healthcare provider or school nurse @ aslote@mvjpa.com if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Autumn Slote

Autumn Slote, BSN, RN
District School Nurse