

## NEW 6TH GRADE VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS

**The South Dakota Department of Health is now revising its administrative rules to require both the Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) and MCV4 (Meningococcal ACYW) vaccines for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students beginning with the 2016-17 school year.** Vaccine requirements for kindergarten entry have been in place for many years but this will be the first such requirement for middle school entry in South Dakota.

The change is a direct result of Senate Bill 28, which was passed by the 2016 South Dakota Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Daugaard. SB 28 adds meningococcal infection to the list of diseases specified in South Dakota Codified Law 13-28-7.1 for which DOH can require vaccination for school entry in South Dakota.

With the change, school entry requirements for South Dakota 6<sup>th</sup> grade students include:

- One dose of Tdap vaccine on or after the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday
- One dose of MCV4 on or after the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday
- A child may receive the Tdap prior to the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday but no earlier than on or after the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday
- The requirements apply only for 6<sup>th</sup> grade entry and transfer students 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- If a child has not reached the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday at the beginning of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, the requirement will be deferred until the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday. The student would have 45 days after the 11<sup>th</sup> birthday to demonstrate compliance.

The DOH utilizes the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to determine which vaccines are necessary. See <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/downloads/parent-version-schedule-7-18yrs.pdf>.

While only Tdap and MCV4 are being added as middle school requirements, parents are encouraged to talk with the provider about immunizing their child with other recommended vaccines such as HPV and Hepatitis A. Additionally the ACIP also recommends that adolescents receive a second dose of MCV4 at age 16. Check this [schedule from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) for a complete listing of recommended immunizations.

Contact the South Dakota Department of Health, Immunization Program, at 1-800-592-1861 (in SD only), or email with your questions.