



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of Public Health

February 13, 2009

Dear Parent:

I am writing to inform you of changes to the State's Immunization law for the upcoming school year, 2009-2010. According to the new law, students entering sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) grade will be required to show proof of immunization against Meningococcal Meningitis (MCV4) and any booster doses recommended by the Office of Public Health routine immunization schedule.

Students entering sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) grade must have proof of booster doses for Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis), MMR (Measles, Mumps and Rubella---both doses must be after the first (1<sup>st</sup>) birthday and separated by at least 28 days), Chickenpox (both after the first birthday and both separated by at least 28 days).

*Varicella vaccine will be waived if the student has had a case of chickenpox disease. The parent is responsible for reporting the case of chickenpox* to the school nurse, local health department or regional immunization consultant for documentation in the LINKS system.

**Please be aware---your child will NOT be allowed to attend school if you fail to comply with the new immunization law. You should contact your local pediatrician or your local health department to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.**

If you delay vaccinating your child there may be a long wait to get your child a shot which will delay entry into school in the new school year.

Should you need to contact me please call 985-871-1327 and I will assist in any way I can. Until then, I remain,

Respectfully yours,  
Chadetta Blankenship  
Immunization Consultant  
Region 9