



# Valley County Health Department

**Prevent. Protect. Promote.**

501 Court Square Box #11 Glasgow, Montana 59230



**Public Health**

**April 27, 2020**

**To: Parents/Guardians of 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students**

**From: Valley County Health Department**

**Re: Student Vaccinations**

Please call the Valley County Health Department at 228-6261 to schedule vaccinations for your 6<sup>th</sup> grade child. Valley County Health Department encourages immunization as soon as the child is age 11. Let's do this before school is officially out and the summer gets busy!

• **Tetanus, Diphtheria, Acellular Pertussis (Tdap)** Montana Law requires students to have proof of this immunization for 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry.

Boostrix or Adacel can be given at age 11 and VCHD would like to protect our children as soon as they are eligible. Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious disease involving the throat and lungs. It is one of the deadliest diseases of infants and young children.

These vaccines are also recommended and are routine vaccinations:

• **Meningococcal Vaccine (MCV4)**

Menactra is recommended by the CDC for children age 11-12. A booster dose is recommended between 16-18 years also. Meningococcal disease is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children in the U.S.

• **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)**

Gardasil vaccine is a series of 2 shots given 6 months apart IF the first dose is given prior to age 15. The CDC recommends that boys and girls age 11-12 receive this vaccine. Spread by males and females, HPV is a very common virus that can lead to genital warts and cancer of the mouth and throat, cervix, penis or vagina. HPV vaccine is cancer prevention!

• **Hepatitis A (HAV)**

Havrix vaccine is also a 2-dose series given 6 months apart. This vaccine is now given routinely to all babies, but this age group is often missing Hepatitis A protection. Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV). HAV is spread from person to person through contact with the feces (stool) of people who are infected, which can easily happen if someone does not wash his or her hands properly. You can also get hepatitis A from food, water, or objects contaminated with HAV. Hepatitis A can be spread without any symptoms.

Please do not wait to immunize; summer will fly by as it always does! VCHD is open every week to provide immunizations.

**By appointment: Monday – Thursday from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm**

Please call us at 228-6261 for any questions and to schedule your appointment!