

**Dear Parents of Children Born on or After January 1, 1997
Entering 6th Grade in September, 2013**

The State of New Jersey has enacted two new school vaccination requirements that became effective as of September 2008.

The two vaccinations are:

1. **A booster of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis**

Reason for this recommendation: All children entering Kindergarten must have vaccinations for diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP). However, this protection typically begins to wear off by the time they reach their pre-teen years. There is now a booster shot for pre-teens/teens that adds pertussis to the routine tetanus (Td) booster shot that was always recommended for this age group. The state hopes that by making this mandatory, the cases of pertussis will again start to decline.

2. **A vaccination against meningococcal disease (meningitis)**

Reason for this recommendation: Teenagers and college students have an increased rate of meningococcal infection compared to the general population, nearly 30% of all U.S. cases. Of those who survive, up to 20% suffer long-term disabilities.