

6th Grade Vaccination Requirements

Messaging to inform parents

We want to inform you of the vaccination requirements for students entering the 6th grade for the 2018-19 school year. **All incoming 6th grade students will be required to be vaccinated with one dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis vaccine, also known as Tdap and one dose of meningococcal vaccine, also known as MCV4.** Both of these vaccines should be **received on or after the 11th birthday.** This requirement will be deferred for students that have not yet reached their 11th birthday. On the 11th birthday the requirement would apply. Please visit with your physician or your local community health nurse to see if your child needs these and other recommended vaccines.

The South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) is now revising its administrative rules to require both the Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) and MCV4 (Meningococcal ACYW) vaccines for entry into the 6th grade 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 Department of Education, based on recommendations from the Department of Health can require vaccination for school entry in South Dakota.

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

- *One dose of Tdap vaccine*
- *One dose of MCV4*
- *The requirements apply only for 6th grade entry and transfer students 6th – 12th grade*
- *If a child is 10 years old when entering the 6th grade they have 45 days after their 11th birthday to be vaccinated*