

Date: **June 3, 2021**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of immunization requirements that will impact rising 12th grade students. Starting with the 2020-21 school year, students entering 12th grade are required to have a booster (second) dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine if they have not already received one.

An up-to-date immunization record indicating that your student has received all required immunizations is due by the first day of attendance at school. If proof of immunization is not provided within 30 calendar days after school entry, **your student will not be allowed to attend school until it is provided, as required by law.**

North Carolina law provides for only two types of exemptions from required immunizations. These are medical and religious, as detailed below. If your child has a medical or religious exemption to this vaccine(s), you are required to provide documentation of this exemption(s).

N.C. G.S.130A-156 Medical Exemption – applies when it is certified that a required immunization is or may be detrimental to a person's health due to the presence of one of the contraindications adopted by the Commission for Public Health. Under this exemption, the person is not required to receive the specified immunization under G.S. 130A-152, as long as the contraindication persists. The child may attend school or a child care facility with a copy of the Medical Exemption Statement Form (DHHS-3987).

N.C. G.S.130A-157 Religious Exemption – applies when the bona fide religious belief of the parent, guardian or person in *loco parentis* of a child are contrary to the immunization requirements contained in North Carolina law, the adult or the child shall be exempt from the requirements. Upon submission of a written statement of the bona fide religious beliefs and opposition to the immunization requirements, the child may attend school without presenting a certificate of immunization.

Please contact your health care provider or local health department if your child needs this vaccine. For additional information about the vaccine, the disease it protects against, and other recommended vaccines your teen may need, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/by-age/years-13-18.html>, (or scan the QR code below).

If you have any questions, please contact **me beginning August 2, 2021**
at **the Haywood County Health Department at 828-452-6675 ext. 2259**

Sincerely,

Sarah Keener, BSN, RN, PHNI

