



Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are delighted to let you know about the vaccination collaboration between the Pulaski County Health Department (PCHD) and Pulaski County Public Schools. Immunization rates have dropped in our country and in this county. We often hear that parents find it difficult to arrange for children to receive immunizations with a physician or local health department. Because we believe in prevention and community service, we will offer the Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (Tdap) booster vaccination to all 5th grade students at our elementary schools this year.

State law requires that all students entering 6th grade receive a booster dose of pertussis-containing vaccine. This means that **all rising 6th graders will need a dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis) vaccine.** This vaccine may be obtained from your child's physician or your local health department. If your child has already received this vaccination after 7 years of age, please send a copy of the vaccination record to the school.

All 5th grade students will have the opportunity to receive the Tdap booster on March 24, 2017.

There will be ***no charge*** to parents of children who choose to receive the Tdap vaccine; however, state law requires that Pulaski County Health Department collect your insurance information and bill for costs associated with the administration of the vaccine. Any cost not covered by your insurance will not be billed to parents.

In order to provide vaccination to your child, you will need to **complete, sign, and return** the attached Student Tdap Vaccination Consent form to your child's school **by Friday, March 10, 2017.** In addition, you will want to read and keep the *Tdap: What you Need to Know Vaccine Information Statement*. If a completed and signed consent form is not returned to the school, your child will not be given the vaccination at school.

You are under no obligation to participate. This is simply a service to the parents of our students to alleviate the hardship associated with trying to schedule a doctor's visit, securing transportation, and potentially missing work in order to meet the mandate of your child taking the Tdap vaccine booster. Please remember that your child does not have to participate in this vaccination opportunity and it does not eliminate the need for your child to receive regular check-ups with your primary care physician.

Sincerely,

Mary M. Rash