

# Importance of Student Vaccinations

As we look forward to the upcoming school year, we at the [Insert School District], in collaboration with the Central Racine County Health Department, would like to remind parents/guardians on the important reasons to vaccinate their student. **Please make sure your child is up to date on their required vaccines!**



**Vaccines save lives.** In the US, the number of deaths related to diseases prevented by student vaccinations has dropped by 99%.



**Vaccines keep our community healthy.** Since their introduction, the US has seen a 96% decline in illnesses related to vaccine-preventable diseases.



**Vaccines protect our most vulnerable.** Children who are too young or individuals with weakened immune systems are unable to get vaccinated and depend on their vaccinated community members to protect them from the spread of disease. Without, this protection, long-term health complications and even death may be an unfortunate result for these vulnerable populations.



**Vaccines keep students in school.** In the event of a school disease outbreak an unvaccinated student may be excluded from school for an extended time. For example, a case of measles will result in the health department excluding unvaccinated students from school for up to 21 days or more.



**Vaccines provide financial benefits.** Parents of a sick child may have healthcare costs. Additionally, an unvaccinated student who faces exclusion may require parents to request time off from work and/or seek assistance to care for their child.



**Vaccine-preventable diseases remain a public health threat.** Outbreaks of measles, mumps, and whooping cough continue to impact our school systems as evidenced by a recent outbreak of mumps at a local university and a whooping cough outbreak in a neighboring county school district.



**Vaccines help to prevent potential disease-related health effects.** The following table illustrates the 6 vaccines required for Wisconsin students and the potential health effects they protect against related to 9 diseases.

| Vaccine     | Disease                 | Potential Disease-Related Health Effects                                                    |
|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DTaP, Tdap  | Diphtheria              | <i>Fever, Sore Throat, Difficulty Breathing, Heart Failure, Paralysis</i>                   |
|             | Tetanus                 | <i>Muscle Stiffness, Lockjaw, Seizures, Rapid Heart Rate, Difficulty Breathing</i>          |
|             | Pertussis               | <i>Violent and Uncontrollable Coughing, Vomiting, Exhaustion</i>                            |
| Polio       | Polio                   | <i>Sore Throat, Fever, Nausea, Meningitis, Paralysis</i>                                    |
| MMR         | Measles                 | <i>Ear Infections, Diarrhea, Pneumonia, Swelling of the Brain</i>                           |
|             | Mumps                   | <i>Swollen Jaw, Puffy Cheeks, Muscle Aches, Fever</i>                                       |
|             | Rubella                 | <i>Red Rash on Face and Body, Fever, Coughing, Sneezing, Birth Defects</i>                  |
| Hepatitis B | Hepatitis B             | <i>Fever, Vomiting, Joint Pain, Yellowing of the Skin and Eyes (Jaundice), Liver Cancer</i> |
| Varicella   | Varicella (Chicken Pox) | <i>Itchy Rash of Blisters, Fever, Headache, Pneumonia</i>                                   |

Please contact Central Racine County Health Department at (262) 898-4460 for any questions or to request more information.