

BIG SPRING INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

"Excellence is Expected of All"

708 11th Place

Big Spring, Texas 79720 (432)264-3600

ATTENTION PARENTS OF STUDENTS ENTERING

7TH GRADE IN AUGUST 2009!

The Texas Department of State Health Services recently adopted **new immunization requirements for students entering 7th grade in August 2009** (*Title 25 Health Services, §§97.61; 97.63-97.72 of the Texas Administrative Code*).

BEGINNING AUGUST 1, 2009:

Students entering 7th grade will be required to have:

- **Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis-containing vaccine (Tdap)**
 - One (1) booster dose of vaccine if it has been at least 5 years since their last tetanus containing vaccine (Td is acceptable in lieu of Tdap if a contraindication to pertussis exists)
- **Meningococcal vaccine**
 - One (1) dose of vaccine
- **Varicella vaccine**
 - Two (2) doses of vaccine (A written statement from a parent/legal guardian, school nurse, or physician attesting to a child's positive history of varicella disease (chicken pox), or of varicella immunity, is acceptable in lieu of either dose of varicella vaccine)

Written Statement:

My child does not need the Varicella Vaccine.

My child had the Chicken Pox illness on: _____ (must list month and year)

Parent/Guardian/Physician Signature

Date

Immunizations are given at Department of State Health Services located at College Park Shopping Center on Monday through Wednesday from 1:00-4:00pm. You may also go to Leonard's Pharmacy from 10:00am – 12:00pm or 2:00pm – 6:00pm, your family doctor or Pediatrician.

Please submit a current record of your child's immunizations to the school nurse/office **NO LATER THAN AUGUST 24TH, 2009 (THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL). Texas State law requires that students be fully vaccinated for school attendance. Any student not providing proof of an up-to-date immunization record (month/date/year of immunizations **plus** doctor/clinic) **may be excluded from school attendance.****

The State of Texas only allows exemptions from immunizations for medical conditions or reasons of conscience—which include religious reasons. To claim an exclusion for medical reasons, the child or student must present a statement signed by the child's physician who has examined the child, in which it is stated that, in the physician's opinion, the vaccine required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the child or any member of the child's household. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician. Families wishing to obtain the Exemption by Reasons of Conscience must write to the Texas Department of Health and request the appropriate affidavit form or obtain the form from their web site at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school/default.shtm>. Conscientious exemptions are only valid for two years. Schools and other providers are not allowed to grant an exemption and must receive the official forms from the child's parent or guardian to document compliance with state regulations.

Please contact your school nurse should you have any questions. Thank you!