Dear Parent/Guardian,

All students entering 7th grade must have proof of having both the Meningococcal and the Tdap vaccines **before school starts in August,** unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption on file. There will be **no** grace/extension period for the implementation of this requirement.

The Iowa Department of Public Health made changes to the Iowa Immunization law that began during the 2017/18 school year requiring that all students entering 7th grade have **both** a Meningococcal vaccine and a Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis/whooping cough) booster or a medical or religious exemption filled out before school starts this fall.

- A medical exemption to immunization may be granted to a student when the required immunizations would be injurious to the health and well-being of the applicant or any member of the applicant's family or household or the required vaccine would violate minimum interval spacing.

- A religious exemption to immunization may be grated when immunizations conflict with a genuine and sincere religious belief, and is not based merely on philosophical, scientific, moral, personal or medical opposition to immunizations. Religious exemptions should not be utilized to prevent truancy issues with students not presenting a valid immunization certificate to enroll in school.

If your student receives immunizations outside of Iowa; please send a copy to the school. If they receive immunizations within the state of Iowa, please contact the nurse as that information can be found in the Iowa database (IRIS).

Now is a great time for your child to receive these immunization requirements and beat the back-to-school rush by making an appointment for your incoming 7th grader. Cresco Medical Clinic is accepting calls and making appointments at this time so please do not hesitate to contact them at 563-547-2022.

If your student receives immunizations before the end of this school year, please send them in and their file will be updated.

If you have questions, please contact me via email at pmoellers@howard-winn.k12.ia.us or call 563-547-2764 and ask for the nurse.

Thank you,

Peggy Moellers, MSN, RN
Crestwood School Nurse