



106 EAST MORGAN STREET
SUITE 105
BREVARD, NC 28712
828.884.3135
transylvaniahealth.org

March 17, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

“Stay on Track” is a school-site immunization initiative brought to you through a partnership between Transylvania County Schools and Transylvania Public Health to protect our children against meningococcal disease, tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis by administering the MCV and Tdap vaccines.

- Meningococcal disease, which includes meningococcal meningitis and meningococcal sepsis, is caused by the bacteria *meningococcus*. Although rare, it’s very serious and potentially life-threatening. It can potentially kill an otherwise healthy young person within one day after the first symptoms appear.
- Tetanus (lockjaw) causes painful tightening of the muscles, usually all over the body. It often causes a person's neck and jaw muscles to spasm or “lock,” making it hard to open the mouth or swallow.
- Diphtheria causes a thick covering in the back of the throat which can lead to breathing problems, paralysis, heart failure and even death.
- Pertussis (whooping cough) causes severe coughing spells, which can lead to difficulty breathing, vomiting, and disturbed sleep, as well as weight loss, incontinence, rib fractures, and passing out.

Due to a recent addition to the North Carolina immunization law, **ALL** children are **REQUIRED** to receive the MCV and Tdap vaccines before entering seventh grade or 12 years of age.

Both vaccines will be offered to sixth graders at your child’s school during the week of April 19. Transylvania Public Health school nurses will administer the vaccines to all students who have written parental permission. **If you wish to have your child vaccinated at school, please complete both sides of the attached permission form and return it to school no later than March 29, 2021.**

Sixth grade students who do not receive the vaccines at school will be **REQUIRED** to get it at their doctor’s office or the local health department prior to entering seventh grade.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Transylvania Public Health at 884-3135 or call your child’s private doctor.

Sincerely,

April H. Owenby, RN, NCSN & Amy Parker, RN, NCSN
School Health Nurses

