

Spring Kindergarten Letter

Dear Parent:

Before your child enters kindergarten this Fall, please be aware that the Wisconsin Immunization Law requires Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or the date your child previously had the disease. Although thought by some to be a harmless disease, Varicella can result in serious complications including bacterial skin infections, Reye Syndrome (a neurologic disorder), encephalitis, and meningitis and can be fatal.

Also, please be aware the one dose of DTaP vaccine is required AFTER the 4th birthday. For children who are “up to date” with their preschool DTaP series this will be final (5th) dose that is recommended to ensure prolonged protection, primarily against pertussis also known as whooping cough. For children who are not “up to date” this dose may be the 3rd or 4th in the series and no further doses are required. Because of a 4 day grace period, DTaP vaccine received 4 days or less before the 4th birthday is also acceptable.

The date (month, day, and year) of each immunization must be entered on the Student Immunization Record that is available from your child’s school and should be submitted to the school your child will attend.

Waivers are available for religious, health, and personal conviction reasons. However, in the event of an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease, students with waivers may be excluded from school until the outbreak subsides.

You are encouraged to have your child immunized **well in advance of school opening** to avoid the late summer rush at immunization clinics. For immunizations, contact your doctor, clinic, HMO, or nearest public health department.

You may review your child’s immunization record from your computer on the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR). The WIR is a secure computerized data system that tracks immunizations given to people. The internet address is <http://dhfsWIR.org>. To obtain the dates of your child’s immunizations, type in your child’s name, social security or Medicaid number. In order to access your child’s record their social security number must be in the system. If it is not, contact your medical provider and ask that the number be put into the WIR so that you can access your child’s immunization record. Address information about your child is not provided.

If you would like further information on immunization, please see the following websites: www.cdc.gov.nip, www.immunize.org, and www.immunizationinfo.org.

Thank you,