

\*\*\*\*\* IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ \*\*\*\*\*

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you of important changes in the mandated immunization requirements affecting **all incoming 12<sup>th</sup> grade students**.

New vaccination laws now require all 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to have the following vaccines:

**Two (2) doses of Meningococcal vaccine (MCV4)** - If the first dose was administered on or after the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, a second dose is not required.

\*Many students received the **first** dose of this series when obtaining the Tdap vaccine prior to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.\*

The meningococcal vaccine protects against bacterial meningitis. Meningitis is an infection of the tissue covering the brain and spinal cord. Adolescents 16-21 years of age are at increased risk of getting meningococcal disease.

Please contact your child's health care provider to make the necessary appointment to obtain this vaccine. If your child has received both doses of this vaccine, please submit the documentation to the school as soon as possible.

As with other school immunization requirements, students who do not provide documentation of immunizations are subject to exclusion from school. **Parents must provide the school with the documentation by the first day of the school year.**

If your child does not have a doctor or if you are unable to obtain an appointment with your provider, the Licking County Health Department offers ongoing vaccination clinics with a variety of hours and locations. Please visit their website [www.lickingcohealth.org](http://www.lickingcohealth.org) or call at 740-349-6535 for more information regarding these clinics. You can also obtain vaccinations at local store-based clinics.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions or concerns.