

May 23, 2013

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Tdap vaccine is routinely recommended for preteens at ages 11 or 12 years for protection against tetanus (lockjaw), diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). Protection provided by the DTaP vaccines received as young children wears off as kids get older, so adolescents need a booster shot known as **Tdap**. Getting this booster not only protects your child, but also the people around them –especially babies and the elderly.

Wells Ogunquit CSD in cooperation with the Maine Immunization Program will be offering students who are currently in 5th through 12th grades a FREE Tdap booster vaccination **if they have not already received one. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to confirm their student's Tdap status with your student's health care provider.**

Your doctor or other health care provider can also give these vaccines and this school-based immunization clinic should not replace the yearly physical exam by your physician.

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) is spread through the air by the infected persons' cough. School-aged children, especially those between 10 and 18 years old are particularly vulnerable to the illness even though they may have received all the recommended childhood immunizations. The Tdap vaccine is given as **a one-time dose**.

This vaccine generally produces no serious ill effects other than tenderness at the injection site and a mild fever in some cases. **Please read the Tdap Vaccine Information Statement thoroughly.** It is posted on the district web site or is available from the school nurse.

Vaccines for Meningococcal disease, Varicella (chicken pox) and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) are also recommended for this age group however we are not able to provide these vaccinations in a school-based setting.

Please return a completed and signed consent form to the nurse by school by June 3, 2013. The form is available from the nurse or the WOCSD website (along with the vaccine information statement.)

The Tdap vaccine will be administered to your child in June when the vaccine arrives. A school wide call will be made once the date has been determined. **The vaccine will NOT be given without a returned consent form.**

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Endsley at Wells High School (641-6967) or Mrs. Collins at Wells Junior High School (646-5142).