**Notice to Parents**

CHANGES IN Tdap SCHOOL VACCINATION REQUIREMENT

Diphtheria, Tetanus, & Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, or **Tdap**)

In April 2018, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) changed the minimum recommended age for the tetanus, diphtheria, and **acellular pertussis (Tdap) adolescent** **booster** vaccine from 10 to **11 years**. According to the Code of Virginia, the student has met the requirement by having a Tdap dose **prior to seventh grade**.

The Requirements Reads:

A minimum of 4 doses. A child must have at least one dose of DTaP or DTP vaccine on or after the fourth birthday. DT (Diphtheria, Tetanus) vaccine is required for children who are medically exempt from the pertussis containing vaccine (DTaP or DTP). Adult Td is required for children 7 years of age and older who do not meet the minimum requirements for tetanus and diphtheria. ***Effective July 1, 2019, a booster dose of Tdap vaccine is required for all children entering the 7th grade.***

**How does this affect my rising 6th grader? Under this provision, current 5th grade students (rising 6th graders) *are not required to receive the Tdap booster prior to entering middle school.* This group of students will be evaluated at the end of their 6th grade year**

**(prior to entering the 7th grade level).**

**How does this affect my rising 7th grader? Current 6th grade students (rising 7th graders) received the Tdap booster prior to entering 6th grade; therefore, they have met the requirement and are ready to enter 7th grade and continue on to complete their secondary education.**