



# *The Nurse's Corner*

## **Vaccines/Immunizations**

**It's important to realize that different types of vaccines work in different ways.**

Vaccines can help protect against certain diseases by imitating an infection. This helps teach the immune system how to build immunity to fight off a future infection. Different vaccines provide immunity in different ways.

It is required that all students attending school in Iowa are up to date on immunizations or have a valid exemption on file prior to the first day of school. Students without valid immunization certificates OR a certificate of exemption on file at the school, prior to the first day of school, will be excluded from school (Iowa Code section 139A.8)

### **Required School Immunizations (per Iowa Code section 139A.8)**

**Kindergarten** - DTaP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis), MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) and Polio Boosters

**7th grade**- 1st Meningitis, and TDaP (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) booster

**12th grade** - 2nd Meningitis

**Recent Measles Information:** According to the CDC, as of April 17, 2025, a total of 800 confirmed measles cases have been reported across the U.S. Measles is a very contagious disease that is spread through the air when a person with measles coughs or sneezes. Children and adults who have not had measles or who have not been fully immunized [with 2 doses of vaccine] are at risk of developing measles, which can lead to encephalitis (brain swelling), severe respiratory illness, and death. If an exposure were to occur, it is important for you to watch your child for symptoms of measles, which include the following (usually in this order) :

1-Fever

2 Cough

3-Pink eyes

4-Runny nose

5- Rash that starts on the head & spreads all over the body

Children usually receive the MMR (Measles-Mumps-Rubella) vaccine at 12-15 months and again at 4-6 years of age. Children that have had two doses of MMR are considered immune to measles. If you are unsure of your child's vaccination status or if your child has not received the vaccine or has only had one dose of MMR, consult your healthcare provider or local public health department. Children under the age of 1 year and those with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of complications from measles.

Please be aware that if a confirmed case of measles occurs in an Iowa school, all non-immune students and staff in that building will be excluded from school for 21 days following the last potential exposure to the infected individual. This is per public health order.

If you have further questions about measles, call Dickinson County Public Health at 712-339-6050 or Iowa HHS at 1-800-362-2736.

[Immunization Requirements](#)

[Religious Certificate of Immunization Exemption](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the school nurses:

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