

Parents of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students,

ECS is collaborating with American Healthcare Group and Allegheny County Health Department to get the word out about vaccines. Vaccines are the best way to protect your child from a number of serious diseases. **ECS will hold a vaccine clinic at school on Thursday, April 27.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, this school, and the Allegheny County Health Department all recommend these for your son or daughter.

- Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine is recommended for preteens at age **11 or 12** for protection against bacteria that cause meningococcal disease. Meningococcal disease can lead to death in as little as 48 hours. A second shot is recommended at age 16 to continue providing protection.
- HPV vaccine is recommended for preteens at age **11 or 12** to protect against cancers and other diseases caused by HPV infection. Both boys *and* girls prior to age 14 should receive two doses of HPV vaccine to protect against these serious diseases. Your preteen should receive the second dose 6 months after the first dose. ECS has a tentative date for a second clinic in October 2017 to complete the series.
- One dose of Tdap vaccine is recommended for preteens at age **11 or 12** to continue providing protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough).
- Preteens and teens should also get the flu vaccine every year, ideally as soon as the vaccine is available.

**Pennsylvania requires Tdap and meningococcal for 7<sup>th</sup> grade school entry**, and we strongly recommend the HPV and flu vaccines. Currently there are 18 sixth grade students that do not meet this requirement for next year. Immunization regulations are also changing for next year limiting provisional status to **5 days. Any student without these required vaccinations by the 5th day of school will be excluded until proof of vaccination is obtained.**

**A representative from the American Healthcare Group and the Allegheny County Health Department will be present at the March 9th PCO meeting at 7pm for a short presentation and to answer questions.** Please consider joining us and signing your child up for these vaccines which will be given during a vaccine clinic at ECS on **Thursday, April 27th.**

Please call/email me with any questions or concerns, or to inquire if your child is in need of these vaccines.

Thank you for helping to maintain a safe and healthy environment for every student!