



CITY OF MANCHESTER
Department of Health

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November 9, 2006

Dear Parent/Guardian of 5th and 8th grade students:

The Manchester School District and Manchester Health Department have implemented a new policy that requires all students entering the 6th and 9th grades to have a physical examination by a licensed medical provider. This new policy will be in effect beginning September 2007. Students will be excluded from school if they fail to provide documentation of a complete physical examination within one year prior to entry into 6th and 9th grades up to a six-month period after starting 6th and 9th grades (March 1, 2008). This policy will provide an 18-month window of time to provide the required documentation for 6th and 9th grade students.

Upon completion of the examination, your child's medical provider should complete and sign the physical examination form on the back of this letter or an examination form used in their practice. Please send the completed form to your child's school nurse. If your child does not have a medical provider or medical insurance and you would like assistance making an appointment, please call the Manchester Health Department at 624-6466, and ask for Health Link. We can provide you with assistance at no charge.

The Manchester School District along with the Manchester Health Department, help ensure that students come to school healthy and ready to learn every day. Teens and children with asthma, depression, and other treatable illnesses will miss less school, and will perform better in school if these illnesses are diagnosed and managed well. In addition, a complete physical examination is an important way to ensure students receive factual information and have an opportunity to ask questions about healthy behaviors and lifestyle choices, like limiting television and screen time to one hour or less every day, and avoiding alcohol and tobacco use. Medical providers can provide a confidential setting for teens to discuss these matters.

In addition, the physical examination is a critical time to ensure your child has received all preventive health screens (like blood pressure, scoliosis, and vision screens), as well as all recommended vaccines. Students who are 11-12 years of age (and older) are eligible for two newer vaccines: Boostrix and Menactra. Boostrix protects teens against pertussis or whooping cough, which is a common cause of prolonged cough and missed school days, and can result in serious complications for younger siblings. In addition, Boostrix provides a Tetanus booster and protection against Diphtheria. Menactra protects against a form of bacterial meningitis, or inflammation of the brain and spinal cord.

Sincerely,

School Nurse

School Telephone Number