



## Immunization Program

100 Polk County Plaza

Suite 180

Dear Parent,

As you and your senior begin to look at and prepare for the possibility of higher education in the next year, one of the key pieces to a happy and healthy higher education experience is making sure that your student's vaccinations are up to date. As you explore different schools and begin the application process ask about required vaccines. The best defense against vaccine preventable diseases for your student are listed below.

Children 11 to 12-years-old and older will need their Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) booster. This one time shot is the key to increasing your child's resistance to Pertussis (Whooping Cough).

The other two vaccines that are recommended for your son or daughter at this age are Meningococcal and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV).

The Meningococcal vaccine helps prevent a brain and spinal cord infection and is one shot and a booster shot.

The HPV vaccine prevents cancer. This may be a series of two or three shots depending on your child's age when they receive the first dose of the vaccine. If your child starts this vaccine before the age of 15, he or she only needs to receive two shots. However, if your child does not start the HPV series until after he or she is 15-years-old, your child will need to receive three doses to get the same immune response.

These vaccines are available all throughout their teen years and may be given by your provider at any office visit (wellness or illness related as long as your child is fever free) or at camp and sports physicals. Ask your provider if your child has received these vaccines!

If your child is uninsured or your insurance does not cover immunizations (shots), please contact Polk County Health Department at 715-485-8544 to schedule an appointment for your child to receive these vaccines at no cost to you. If you have insurance, please contact your clinic today to set up an appointment to have your child receive these important immunizations.

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*"Promoting, Protecting and Preserving Health Through Partnerships with People and Communities"*