

[School Letterhead]

[Date]

Pertussis Immunization

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Immunization is the best way to protect your child against certain childhood diseases. To be fully protected against these diseases, your child needs to receive the complete vaccination series for that disease. Immunity is built in phases, with each dose boosting your child's immunity for that disease. An incomplete vaccination series leaves your child less protected and at risk for contracting that disease.

To be completely protected from pertussis (whooping cough) your child must receive:

5 doses of Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine prior to their 7th birthday.

Children who receive their 4th dose after the 4th birthday do not need a 5th dose of DTaP vaccine.

If your child is 7 years or older and has not completed the DTaP series, they should receive one dose of Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis (Tdap).

If your child has not completed the series of DTaP or Tdap, they could potentially be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak, as referenced by the Maine Exclusion from School Law (Title 20-A MSRA Chapter 223 Subchapter 2 §6356).

For more information, please visit the Maine Immunization website at www.immunizeme.org or contact a Health Educator at 207-287-3746.

Thank you for your cooperation.