Dear Parent or Guardian:

Immunize Nevada and the Division of Public and Behavioral Health wants to remind you of the importance of getting your 11 or 12 year old son or daughter vaccinated before they start 7th grade. Vaccines are the best way you can protect your child from a number of serious diseases, including cancers caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV). **Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, the quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) will be required for all Nevada 7th graders in addition to the Tdap vaccine. This requirement will not affect students in 8th-12th grade already enrolled in the school district.**

As you are making your middle school checklist for your preteen, we encourage you to ensure your sons and daughters get all the vaccines that are recommended for them. Schedule your child’s appointment today to ensure they are up-to-date on the vaccines they need. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend your son or daughter receive the following vaccines:

* Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) is recommended for preteens at age 11 or 12 for protection against bacteria that cause meningococcal disease, a very serious illness which can lead to death in as little as 48 hours. A second shot is recommended for teens at age 16 to continue providing protection. **Nevada will begin requiring this vaccine for 7th grade school entry and for incoming university freshmen in 2017.**
* 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 should receive doses of HPV vaccine to protect against these serious diseases. If your child receives the vaccine before age 14, they will only need 2 doses of the vaccine.
* 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). **Nevada requires Tdap for 7th grade school entry.**
* Preteens and teens should also get the flu vaccine every year, ideally as soon as the vaccine is available.

Protect your preteen and talk with your child’s healthcare provider about what vaccines they need. To learn more about adolescent vaccines, please visit Immunize Nevada’s website at immunizenevada.org and follow us on Facebook.

Sincerely,

Karissa Loper, MPH   
Deputy Bureau Chief, Child, Family & Community Wellness, Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Heidi Parker, MA

Executive Director, Immunize Nevada

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School District representative