

To: Faculty and Staff

RE: Memorandum about adult immunizations

October 8, 2015

Dear Faculty and Staff,

This is a reminder for all adults in our school community about the importance of immunizations during adulthood. There are a variety of new vaccines that are recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Massachusetts Department of Public Health for adults based upon their age, living and work situations and health status.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health regulates exclusions from school when there is an outbreak of communicable disease such as chicken pox (varicella), whooping cough (pertussis) and measles. Recently, there were two large outbreaks of measles in the United States. In 2014, 668 cases were identified in 27 states and in 2015, 189 cases were diagnosed in 24 states. Most of the cases in 2015 were part of a multi-state outbreak linked to an amusement park in California. Disease occurred in under-vaccinated children and adults. In the Medford community we have had cases of chicken pox, pertussis and measles. Under-vaccinated students and staff were excluded from school, for a minimum of ten days, in these situations.

Please take the time to consult with your primary care physician regarding your immunization status. Day care and pre-school teachers are required to provide evidence of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella and recommended to be immunized for varicella, Hepatitis B, Tdap and Influenza. Immunization records may be submitted to the building school nurse and will remain confidential. It is recommended that all faculty and staff stay current with immunizations to avoid the loss of work days from disease outbreak.

Medford Public School Nurses encourage vaccination against communicable diseases. Do not hesitate to consult your school nurse or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

Toni B. Vento, MS, RN, NCSN

Supervisor of Health Services