

## Dear Parent/Guardian:

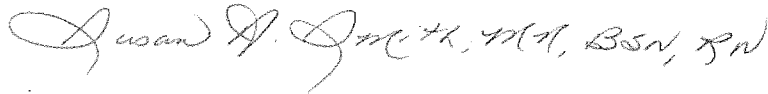
In early February 2010, the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) indicated that students entering 7th grade during the 2010 - 2011 school year would need to have a Tdap immunization in order to attend school. Because of concerns about funding and difficulties that schools and parents may have with meeting the requirement, DHEC has decided to strongly recommend the Tdap immunization rather than to require it for school attendance at this time.

Tdap is a vaccine that protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). Children are immunized against these diseases early in life, but the protection decreases over time. A booster dose of Tdap for pre-teens and teens will help protect against these three diseases for years to come. In addition, vaccinations to prevent meningitis, human papillomavirus (HPV) and varicella zoster (chicken pox) are also strongly recommended.

Please contact your healthcare provider or local public health department to schedule an appointment. Be sure you receive a written record of all immunizations given. Call the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's Immunization Division at 1-800-27-SHOTS (74687) for more information.

Do not delay! Make sure your child is fully immunized!

Sincerely,



Susan A. Smith, Director  
Immunization Division • [www.scdhec.gov/immunization](http://www.scdhec.gov/immunization)  
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control