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SOUTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Division of Family and Community Health
Child and Family Services
Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Disease Prevention Services
State Epidemiologist

MEMORANDUM 2016-01

TO: All Vaccine Providers
FROM: Tim Heath
DATE: March 31, 2016
RE: New 6th Grade Vaccination Requirements

Providers:

The South Dakota Department of Health (DOH) is now revising its administrative rules to require both the Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) and MCV4 (Meningococcal ACYW) vaccines for entry into the 6th grade beginning with the 2016-17 school year. Vaccine requirements for kindergarten entry have been in place for many years but this will be the first such requirement for middle school entry in South Dakota.

The change is a direct result of Senate Bill 28, which was passed by the 2016 South Dakota Legislature and signed into law by Gov. Dugaard. SB 28 adds meningococcal infection to the list of diseases specified in [South Dakota Codified Law 13-28-7.1](#) for which Department of Education, based on recommendations from the Department of Health can require vaccination for school entry in South Dakota.

With the change, school entry requirements for South Dakota 6th grade students include:

- One dose of Tdap vaccine
- One dose of MCV4
- The requirements apply only for 6th grade entry and transfer students 6th - 12th grade

- If a child is 10 years old when entering the 6th grade they have 45 days after their 11th birthday to be vaccinated

Since this is a new requirement, providers should expect an increase in demand for Tdap and MCV4 vaccines. Both of these vaccines are covered by the Vaccines for Children program and most insurance plans should offer first dollar coverage for them as well.

While only Tdap and MCV4 are being added as middle school requirements, providers are encouraged to review the entire vaccination status of the patient and immunize for other recommended vaccines.

Tim Heath