Vaccine Update

With a number of new developments in vaccine recommendations for young adults, we ask that you review your son or daughter’s immunizations with their doctor as an important part of their preparation for college. Briefly, these are a few immunizations to consider:

**Mumps Vaccine:** In response to the recent outbreak of mumps in the Midwest section of the U.S., the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) now recommends **two doses** of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR) for all college students. Currently, only two doses of the measles vaccine and one dose of the mumps vaccine are required for attendance, but we anticipate a change in this requirement in the near future.

**Meningococcal Vaccine:** The CDC has determined that the incidence of meningococcal disease is slightly higher in college dormitory students and a vaccine is available to reduce this risk. Your student is required to **consider** this vaccine and sign a statement indicating his or her decision on whether or not to receive the vaccination.

**Pertussis Vaccine:** Pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough, has resurfaced in the last few years. Until recently, children received their last pertussis vaccination as they started grade school. Older children and adults are now advised to have a single booster of pertussis vaccine as part of a Tetanus/Diphtheria vaccine known as Tdap. This vaccine is encouraged but not required.

**Hepatitis B Vaccine:** It has been 10 years since the CDC began advising all young adults to be vaccinated against Hepatitis B (15 years for infants), yet there are still some who have not started or completed the three-dose series. There is now a combination vaccine that covers both Hepatitis A and B (Twinrix). The hepatitis vaccine is strongly encouraged (especially Hepatitis B) but not required.

**Varicella Vaccine:** Chickenpox still occurs in adults and children. If your son or daughter has not had the illness, it is important that they receive this vaccine. As with the pertussis vaccine, it is encouraged but not required.

**Influenza Vaccine:** A cluster of seasonal influenza occurs every year in college students. All students are well advised to receive this vaccine annually. The vaccine is shipped in October and is available to students through the Health Service. It is not required.

**Human Papilloma Vaccine:** This is a new vaccine just approved by the Food and Drug Administration. It protects against the human papilloma virus (HPV). Certain strains of this virus have been identified as the chief cause of cervical cancer. We will all be hearing more about this. It is not required.

Please let us know if we can help you with more information about these vaccines. A wealth of information about these vaccinations is also available from the CDC at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).