



# Cowpens Middle School

March 12, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) wants to ensure that all children and teens receive recommended vaccines to prevent disease. DHEC reminds parents and guardians that South Carolina law requires that all students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade receive one (1) dose of the Tdap vaccine. The Tdap vaccine protects preteens and teens from three serious diseases: tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough).

We are reminding you now so that you have time to plan for your child to be vaccinated early, before the start of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, so you can beat the back to school rush. A good time to get this vaccine is during a yearly health checkup. Also, ask about this vaccine at a physical exam required for sports, school or camp. Additionally, make sure to get an updated South Carolina Certificate of Immunization and give to your school nurse. This certificate is required by state law for school attendance.

Your local DHEC health department can provide this immunization. Call 1/855-472-3432 to make an appointment. For more information about vaccinations in South Carolina, go to [scdhec.gov/Health/Vaccinations](http://scdhec.gov/Health/Vaccinations).

Sincerely,

Matthew Davis

Principal

Cowpens Middle School