

# IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT ALERT!! 2017

## Attention parents registering their child for kindergarten within the Big Beaver Falls School District:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is changing school immunization regulations beginning in August 2017. You are permitted to register your child today with incomplete immunizations (we understand that some shots may not be administered until the child turns five years old), but please note the following information regarding immunization status and official enrollment at Big Beaver and Central Elementary.

\*Starting with the 2017/2018 school year, kindergarten students will not be assigned a teacher nor officially enrolled until we have a record verifying that they have received all of the required immunizations. This complete vaccine record **MUST** be turned in to the elementary school by August 15, 2017. Please plan accordingly so that you have time to see your child's pediatrician for the necessary vaccines.

\*Due to insurance regulations, your child might not be scheduled for his or her next wellness exam prior to the August 15th deadline. If that is the case, you may need to ask for an earlier appointment for immunizations on a separate date if necessary. You will need to call your pediatrician's office to share this information with them. If you have difficulty with scheduling, or are underinsured and have concerns with cost, the Pennsylvania Department of Health in Beaver offers immunization clinic dates. You may call them at 724-774-1385 for more information.

\*If you turn in your child's complete and updated vaccine record over the summer, please place the updated record in an envelope addressed to Susan Swanson, Central Elementary School Nurse or Lisa Green, Big Beaver Elementary School Nurse. Ask the office staff to place it in their mailbox.

### **Students entering kindergarten need the following immunizations by August 15, 2017:**

- 4 doses of – DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertusis -- 1 dose on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday);
- 4 doses of - IPV (polio -- 4<sup>th</sup> dose on or after 4<sup>th</sup> birthday and at least 6 months after previous dose given);
- 2 doses of - MMR (measels, mumps, rubella);
- 3 doses of - hepatitis B;
- 2 doses of - varicella (chickenpox) vaccine or evidence of immunity.

*The only exemptions to the school laws for immunizations are: medical reasons, religious beliefs, philosophical/strong moral or ethical conviction. Statements of exemption must be provided in writing. If your child is exempt from immunizations, he or she may be removed from school during an outbreak.*

Please call if you have any questions regarding these changes.

Mrs. Susan Swanson, Central Elementary School Nurse – 724-843-3420, ext. 6124  
Mrs. Lisa Green, Big Beaver Elementary School Nurse – 724-827-2828, ext. 5201