

# Hartsville Middle School

1427 Fourteenth Street  
Hartsville, South Carolina 29550



Office Of The Principal  
Brian Hickman

April 4th, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) wants to assure 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 Tdap vaccine. The Tdap vaccine protects preteens and teens from three serious diseases: tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). It is important to know that there are three other vaccines that all preteens and teens are recommended to receive: human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine, a cancer prevention vaccine, meningococcal vaccine (MenACWY) that prevents some types of meningitis, and the yearly flu vaccine.

We are reminding you now so that you have time to plan for your child to be vaccinated early, before the start of 7<sup>th</sup> grade. To beat the back to school rush, a good time to get all these vaccines is during a yearly health checkup. Talk to your child's health care provider now about what vaccines he or she needs. You should also ask about these vaccines at a physical exam required for sports, school or camp. Don't forget to make sure you get an updated SC Certificate of Immunization to give to your school nurse. This certificate is required by state law for school attendance.

Your local DHEC health department also can provide these vaccines. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dawn Alexander RN". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dawn Alexander, RN  
HMS School Nurse