MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 19, 2012

TO: Local Health Department Directors of Nursing
    Vaccines for Children Providers
    County School Superintendents
    County School Administrators
    County Attendance Directors
    School Counselors
    School Nurses
    School Based Health Centers

FROM: Marian Swinker, M.D., M.P.H., Commissioner and State Health Officer
      Bureau for Public Health

RE: Two Week Grace Period for 7th and 12th Grade Enterers to Provide Documentation of Required Vaccinations

As all concerned are probably aware, beginning in this upcoming 2012-13 school year all 7th and 12th grade enterers must show proof of age-appropriate Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis) and MCV4 (meningitis) vaccinations before entering school. In this first year of these adolescent immunization requirements, students are being allowed a two-week grace period to provide documentation of the required vaccinations.

VFC enrolled physicians and other providers of immunization should be prepared to receive an increase in requests for appointments and immunization documentation from the parents and guardians of their patients in the coming days leading up to and immediately after the start of school. The dates of the beginning of school vary widely through the month of August in West Virginia, with at least one jurisdiction beginning as early as August 1st.
As a reminder, the requirements are:

- 7th grade enterers must have had one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) and one dose of MCV (meningococcal) vaccine.

- 12 grade enterers must have had one dose of Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) and a second dose of MCV (meningococcal) vaccine, if indicated. Only one dose of MCV4 is required if the first dose was administered after 16 years of age.

You may contact the Bureau for Public Health, Division of Immunization Services (DIS) by telephone at 1-800-642-3634 or visit the DIS on the web at www.wvimmunization.org for more information about required vaccinations or other immunization issues.

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