



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA
State Health Commissioner

Department of Health
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RICHMOND, VA 23218

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June 17, 2020

Dear Parents of Rising Sixth Graders:

Speaking as Virginia's State Health Commissioner and a parent, I appreciate the many decisions you make every day to protect your child's health. I am writing to share information about the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine that prevents forms of cancer caused by the Human Papillomavirus in both boys and girls. The Virginia Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Pediatrics strongly recommend this vaccine for adolescents at age 11 or 12, which is typically the time when a child is entering sixth grade. I have included information with this letter about HPV infection and the vaccine to protect against it.

As your child becomes an adolescent, it is important to schedule a health check-up for him or her every year. Three vaccines including HPV, Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), and Meningococcal, are recommended for children between 11 and 12 years of age.

Not all vaccines recommended by medical experts are required for school attendance in Virginia. Sixth grade girls are required to receive the HPV vaccine. As the parent or guardian, you have the right to decide that your child not receive the HPV vaccine. Seventh graders are required to receive Tdap vaccine. Please remember to provide your child's immunization record to his or her school.

Should you have any questions please contact Janaye Oliver, Adolescent Immunization Coordinator, at the Virginia Department of Health by telephone at (804) 864-8073 or by email, Janaye.Oliver@vdh.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Norman Oliver MD".

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA
State Health Commissioner