



TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HEALTH SERVICES

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian/Person Responsible for Student's Care:

At the June 18, 1998 board meeting, the Oklahoma State Board of Health approved two revisions to school immunization law adding Hepatitis A and Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine to school entry requirements. Hepatitis A is a two dose series with doses given six months apart.

### **WHAT IS HEPATITIS A?**

Hepatitis A is a liver disease, caused by Hepatitis A virus. Persons with Hepatitis A virus infection may not have any signs or symptoms of the disease. Older persons are more likely to have symptoms than children. If symptoms are present, they usually occur abruptly and may include fever, tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, abdominal discomfort, dark urine, and jaundice (yellowing of the skin and eyes). Symptoms usually last less than 2 months; a few persons are ill for as long as 6 months.

### **WHAT IS THE GOOD NEWS?**

There is a vaccine to prevent Hepatitis A. A series of two doses of vaccine is required. To complete the series it takes six months. Tulsa Public Schools Health Services Department wants to make it easy for your child to receive this series.

### **HOW WILL THIS HAPPEN?**

School nurses from Tulsa Public Schools Health Services Department will administer the vaccine. With your written permission, your child will receive the 1<sup>st</sup> dose on \_\_\_\_\_ and the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose on \_\_\_\_\_.

Flyers will be sent out to notify parents before each dose. You may be present if you wish. This vaccine will be given in the upper arm. Staff will explain the process, encourage, and offer words of comfort in an effort to make the event less stressful for your child. Your child will be expected to cooperate. The clinic area will be private.

Proof of completing the series will be issued following the last dose. If your child misses a dose, parents should make arrangements to finish the series at the school site, Tulsa City-County Health Department, or your health care provider.

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**REQUIREMENTS OF PARENT, LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENT'S CARE. BEFORE YOUR CHILD CAN BE VACCINATED YOU MUST:**

- Read the enclosed information about Hepatitis A.
- Complete, sign, and return the consent form to the school. **STUDENTS WILL NOT BE IMMUNIZED WITHOUT A COMPLETED CONSENT FORM.** This form will establish a permanent computer immunization record for your child through the Oklahoma State Immunization Information System (OSIIS).

Tulsa Public Schools Health Services Department and your school administration urge you to take advantage of this opportunity, or to use your private health care provider. Please begin as soon as possible to give your child this protection.

If you have concerns or questions, regarding Hepatitis A vaccine please contact your school nurse or the Health Services Department (746-6364/6365).