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WIC PROGRAM
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TDaP Shots for Rising 6th graders ages 10 and older

A new school year is right around the corner. By pass the long lines and vaccinate your child this summer! The Portsmouth Health Department is offering Saturday morning walk-in clinics for TDaP shots on the following dates:

June 25, July 9, August 13 and August 27 from 8:00-11:00 am.

Location: Portsmouth Health Dept, 1701 High Street

Cost: Free

* If you have insurance (Medicaid, FAMIS, private insurance) your insurance company will be billed.

Virginia law requires children entering the sixth grade to receive a Tdap booster. Tdap is a combination of three vaccines that protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough).

Tetanus, also known as lockjaw, is found in the soil. The tetanus bacteria enter the body through a wound that is contaminated with the bacteria. The tetanus bacteria produce a toxin that causes painful muscle spasms.

Diphtheria is highly contagious and is spread by coughing and sneezing. It causes a thick coating on the back of the throat that makes swallowing and breathing difficult. If diphtheria goes untreated, serious complications such as heart failure and nerve disorders may occur. Death occurs in about 5-10% of all cases.

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is found in the nose and throat of infected people and is spread by sneezing and/or coughing. The disease can be very serious in children less than 1 year of age where it can cause lung infections and, less often, seizures or inflammation of the brain. Pertussis causes coughing spells so bad that is hard for infants to eat, drink, or breathe.