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April 24, 2023

Dear Parents of Rising 12th Graders:

As a public health physician and a parent, I value the many decisions you make every day to protect your child's health. I am sharing important information about the Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine.

The Virginia Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommend a dose of the MenACWY vaccine for children at 16 years old. This proven vaccine safely protects your teen from meningococcal infections that easily spreads in close settings like schools. As of July 1, 2021, the MenACWY vaccine is required for 7th and 12th graders for school attendance in Virginia.

To continue protecting your family, it is important to schedule an annual check-up with your healthcare provider where you can learn more about the MenACWY vaccine. Your healthcare provider may also recommend the Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine however it is not required for school enrollment. Please remember to give your child's vaccine record to his or her school. To learn more, I have included a MenACWY flyer. You can also visit our website for more information at www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/.

Should you have any questions please contact Erica Hunter, Immunization Data & Outreach Manager at the Virginia Department of Health, by telephone at (804) 864-8057 or by email, erica.hunter@vdh.virginia.gov or Joanna Pitts, School Health Nurse Consultant, at the Virginia Department of Health by telephone 804-864-7590 or by email, joanna.pitts@vdh.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

Laurie Forlano, DO, MPH

Acting Virginia State Epidemiologist

Laurie Deres to night



MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES FOR PRETEENS AND TEENS

Meningococcal vaccines help protect against the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease. Meningococcal vaccines are the best way to protect adolescents from getting meningococcal disease.

The two most common types of illnesses include infections of the:



Lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis)





Even with treatment, about **10** to **15** out of **100** people with meningococcal disease will die from it.

- ✓ All adolescents should get 2 doses of the meningococcal conjugate ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine.
- ✓ They should get the first dose at ages 11-12 and a booster dose at 16 years old.



Ages 11-12before entering the **7th** Grade



- 2 doses of MenACWY vaccine are required for school enrollment/entry.
 - 2 doses of MenB vaccine are recommended after 16 years of age.







Please talk with your child's healthcare provider today about getting vaccinated against meningococcal disease. https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/

