

MenACWY Vaccine Requirement for 12th Grade

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Iowa Department of Public Health now requires that all students entering 12th grade (and born after September 15th, 1999) will be required to have two doses of **meningococcal conjugate(A, C, W, Y) vaccine**. The second dose must be on or after 16 years of age. This will begin with the 2017-2018 school year. This vaccine prevents against the meningococcal bacteria which can infect the blood, brain, and spinal cord. Meningococcal can be very serious and life threatening. About 10 to 15% of people with meningococcal disease die even with appropriate treatment. The meningococcal vaccine is 85-100% effective at preventing infection from the subtypes of meningococcus found in the vaccine. The Meningococcal bacteria is spread through respiratory droplets such as saliva.

It is recommended that adolescents age 11 or 12 years be routinely vaccinated with the quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) and receive a booster dose at 16 years of age. If the first dose was given after the student was 16 years of age, only one dose is required. The Iowa Department of Public Health has also required that all students entering 12 grade receive 2 doses of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine to match this recommendation.

All students entering 12 grade must have at least one dose of meningococcal vaccine prior to entering school. If a student does not have at least one dose of the vaccine, they will not be allowed to enter school until they receive it. If the student only has one dose of the vaccine, they will have 60 days to receive the second dose. At the end of the 60 day provisional period, if the student does not have the second dose, they will not be able to return to school until they have received it. This is in accordance with state law (Iowa Code, chapter 139a.(8)6).

If you have questions concerning this new requirement or need assistance in meeting this requirement, please contact the school nurse at the contact information below.

Thank you for your assistance,
Robyn Klocke-Sullivan, RN, BSN, Madrid Community School Nurse

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