

MenACWY Vaccine Requirement for 7th Grade

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Iowa Department of Public Health now requires that all students entering 7th grade (and born after September 15th, 2004) will be required to have one dose of **meningococcal conjugate(A, C, W, Y) vaccine**. 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. Meningitis 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. 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.

There is no provisional period for students entering 7th grade. This means that **if a student does not have 1 dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) prior to the start of school, they will not be allowed to attend school until they receive the vaccine**. 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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