

April 11, 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Bureau of Immunization, has completed the administrative rules process to require meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccine for students enrolling in 7th and 12th grades. The administrative rule change was effective January 11, 2017, and will be implemented at the beginning of the upcoming 2017-2018 school year.

The change requires a one-time dose of meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccine received on or after 10 years of age for applicants in grades 7 and above, if born after September 15, 2004; and 2 doses of meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccines for applicants in grade 12, if born after September 15, 1999; or 1 dose if received when applicants are 16 years of age or older.

Meningococcal disease caused by any serogroup is very serious. Approximately 10 to 15% of people with meningococcal disease die even with appropriate treatment. Of those who recover, up to 20% suffer from serious after-effects, such as permanent hearing loss, limb loss, or brain damage. Meningococcal vaccines are very safe and effective at preventing meningococcal disease. The meningococcal vaccine is 85 – 100% effective at preventing infection from the subtypes of meningococcus found in the vaccine. The National Immunization Survey (NIS) Teen, 2015 results indicate 75% of Iowa adolescents 13-17 years of age have received one dose the Meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccine. The national average for one dose of meningococcal vaccine is 81.3%. The meningococcal secondary school vaccine requirement will help Iowa achieve and maintain high adolescent vaccine coverage levels, protecting the health of adolescents, friends, families, and communities.

To assist parents with this new requirement Henry County Public Health will be working with your child's school district to make this vaccine available at the school. The vaccine will be given to students in grades 6th and 11th if the appropriate forms have been signed and returned to the school. We will also offer Tdap vaccine to the 6th graders as this is another requirement for students entering the 7th grade. A copy of the insurance card(s) for the student will need to be attached to each completed consent form. In the event that the provided insurance does not cover the vaccination or the student does not have insurance, it will still be available free of charge to those eligible students.

A copy of the insurance card and signed consent need to be returned to the school by Wednesday, April 26, 2017

The immunization clinic will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at the Middle School and Friday, May 12, 2017 at the High School. If the student happens to miss the clinic at school they are always welcome to come to our office to make it up.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Henry County Public Health at 319-385-6724.

Respectfully,

Robin Poole RN
Immunization Coordinator