

Health Corner

RE: Booster dose of meningococcal vaccine for 11th and 12th grade students

Minnesota law requires that all students get vaccinated against certain diseases or have a legal exemption on file to enroll in school. Students entering 12th grade for the 2020-2021 school year need to have documentation, or a legal exemption, for the booster dose of meningococcal vaccine. Most children received the initial dose of this vaccine when they entered 7th grade.

Teenagers and young adults are at higher risk for meningococcal disease. This booster dose is important to make sure they are fully protected through their highest-risk years. Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but college freshman living in dorms are at increased risk and should get vaccinated. If your 12th grader has not gotten the booster and they are going off to college, please get them scheduled for it.

A person with meningococcal disease may become seriously ill very quickly. Antibiotics can treat meningococcal infections, but often can't be given soon enough to help. If you plan to seek legal exemption for this booster, please do so before the start of the school year, as documentation needs to be submitted to the health office. If you need exemption information, the immunization form is available on the MDH website (www.health.state.mn.us/people/immunize/basics/imzform.pdf).

Should you have concerns about costs, ask your child's healthcare provider about low-cost vaccinations or contact Central Clinic at 952-993-1100.

Sincerely,

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Licensed School Nurse

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