

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As a parent, there is nothing more important than safeguarding your child's health.

Maryetta Public School would like to make information available about meningococcal disease and how to prevent it.

### **Meningococcal Disease and Prevention**

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness. It spreads through close contact by coughing, kissing, or sharing anything by mouth, such as water bottles, eating utensils, lip balm, or toothbrushes. It can cause pneumonia, blood infections, and meningitis (swelling of the covering of the brain and spinal cord). Severe disease can cause brain damage, loss of hearing or limbs, and death. Fortunately, this life-threatening infection is rare. Adolescents and young adults are more likely to get meningococcal disease, especially if they live in group settings like college dorms.

There are two types of vaccines that protect against several kinds of meningococcal disease.

#### **Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4)**

MCV4 protects your child against the four most common types of bacteria that cause disease. MCV4 is a routine recommendation for all children aged 11 to 12 years, with a booster for teens aged 16 to 18. Teens who did not get their first dose at the right time should get it as soon as possible. Teens with high-risk conditions like weak immune systems may need more doses.

#### **Meningococcal B vaccine (MenB)**

MenB protects against most meningococcal B strains, and may be given to teens and adults aged 16 to 23 who have rare health conditions OR who are at increased risk during a meningococcal B disease outbreak. Your healthcare provider can tell you whether your child needs a MenB vaccine.

### **Learn more about meningococcal disease and how to prevent it:**

CDC meningococcal disease and vaccine information:

[www.cdc.gov/meningococcal](http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal)

National Meningitis Association:

[www.nmaus.org](http://www.nmaus.org)