



Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

Kristina Box, MD, FACOG
State Health Commissioner

February 14, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) believes that protecting Indiana's citizens from vaccine-preventable diseases is one of the most important roles of public health. [Indiana Code \(IC\) 20-34-4-2](#) charges ISDH to set and publish vaccine requirements for school entry for children attending accredited public and private schools in our state.

Indiana began experiencing a hepatitis A outbreak in November 2017 that has resulted in 2,359 cases, 1,312 hospitalizations and 4 deaths to date. In July 2019, a school vaccine requirements advisory group that included the Indiana State Department of Health-Immunization Division, Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Association of School Nurses, the Indiana Immunization Coalition, and the Indiana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics unanimously agreed to require two valid doses of hepatitis A vaccine for all grades, including schools with pre-kindergarten programs, beginning in the fall of the 2020-2021 school year.

The hepatitis A vaccine is a two-dose series that is routinely recommended beginning at 12 months of age. This two-dose series requires at least six months between doses. This vaccine series is safe and effective at preventing hepatitis A, a highly contagious viral liver infection.

Please make an appointment with your healthcare provider to begin and/or complete the series for your child. We encourage you to discuss any other age-appropriate vaccines for your child that may be needed to protect them from disease and cancer, including influenza, human papillomavirus (HPV), and meningitis B.

If you have questions about your child's immunization history, ISDH established an online tool in 2012 that allows individuals to access their immunization records, known as [MyVaxIndiana](#). This tool enables individuals to view and print their immunization records after receiving a secure, personal identification number (PIN) for a healthcare provider. Please ask your healthcare provider to help you gain access.

Yours in health,

Dave McCormick

Director, Immunization Division



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To promote, protect, and
improve the health and safety
of all Hoosiers.



SOUTH VERMILLION COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Meningococcal meningitis and certain bloodstream infections can be caused by a bacterium called *Neisseria meningitidis*. Infections caused by this bacterium are serious and can quickly turn critical, leading to brain damage, hearing loss, and even death. This bacterium is spread from person to person by sharing respiratory or throat secretions. This typically occurs during close contact, such as kissing or sharing eating utensils, or through persons living in close quarters, such as dormitories (1).

There are two types of meningococcal vaccine available in the United States to protect against these infections. The meningococcal conjugate vaccine, also referred to as MCV4, protects against meningococcal serogroups A,C,W, and Y. The meningococcal serogroup B vaccine, also known as MenB, protects against serogroup B. Since these vaccines protect against different serogroups of the bacterium, they are not interchangeable. It is necessary to receive a complete series of both vaccines for protection against these 5 serogroups of meningococcal bacteria. Neither type of vaccine contains live meningococcal bacteria.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination of all children with the MCV4 vaccine (Menactra or Menveo) at 11 or 12 years of age. A booster dose at age 16 is also recommended to provide ongoing protection from the disease after high school. The CDC also recommends that a MenB vaccine (Bexsero or Trumenba) 2-dose series may be administered to persons 16 through 23 years of age. The child's healthcare provider may make a recommendation regarding the MenB vaccine based on the child's needs (2).

The state of Indiana requires all students in grades 6-12 to have the appropriate number of MCV4 vaccine doses. One dose is required for all students entering 6th-11th grade. A second dose is required for students entering 12th grade. Many colleges and universities require this vaccine for incoming students as well. The MenB vaccine is not an Indiana grade school requirement at this time and does not meet the meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) requirement for school entry.

All students must have acceptable documentation of required immunizations on record at the school they are currently attending. Acceptable documentation includes a signed record from the child's health care provider indicating the name of the vaccine given and the date it was given, a record of the immunization in the state immunization registry (CHIRP) prior to the start of the school year, or a record from another school showing the required immunizations have been given.

Many local health departments and private healthcare providers offer these vaccines. Please contact your healthcare provider for specific instructions regarding your child.

More information about meningococcal disease can be found at these websites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac?mening/default.htm>

<http://www.in.gov/isdh/25455.htm>

Sincerely,

Hannah Hoover, RN, BSN
South Vermillion School Corporation Nurse

1. <http://www.who.int/csr/disease/meningococcal/en/>
2. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/public/index.html>

What vaccines does my child need?

Tdap, HPV and Meningococcal

Education
Letter



Parents and Guardians

The Indiana State Department of Health strives to protect the health and safety of Hoosier children, so we want to make you aware of vaccines recommended for adolescents that protect against diseases, such as pertussis (whooping cough), human papillomavirus (HPV), meningococcal disease and influenza (flu).

Vaccines recommended for boys and girls ages 11-12 include Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), HPV, meningococcal, hepatitis A* and influenza**. These vaccines are safe, effective, and can be given at the same office visit. We urge you to review this important information and contact your child's healthcare provider with any questions.

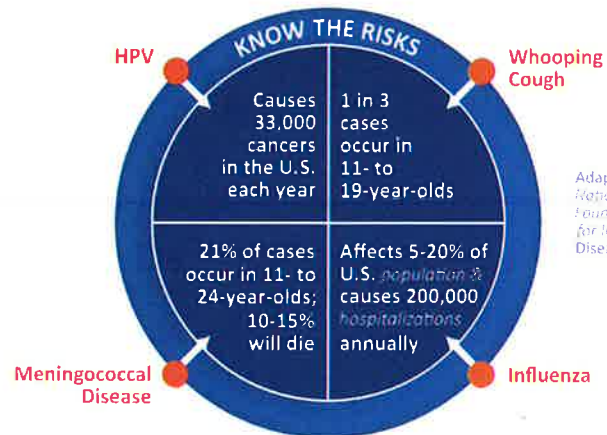
*Recommended starting at 1 year of age

**Recommended for everyone age 6 months and older



Vaccines Aren't Just for Young Children

Adolescents Can Be Protected from Deadly Diseases



Where can my child get these vaccines?

These vaccines are available from your child's healthcare provider. Pharmacies can also administer vaccines to children ages 11 and older.

If your child does not have health insurance or has a health insurance plan that does not cover vaccines, your child is eligible to receive no-cost vaccines through the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

Please visit the Indiana State Department of Health website to locate a VFC provider in your county: <https://www.in.gov/isdh/26482.htm>. You can also contact us at immunize@isdh.in.gov or 800-701-0704.

Disease Name	Vaccine Name (to protect against disease)	Disease spread by	Symptoms	Complications
Tetanus (lockjaw)	Tdap vaccine	Bacteria found in soil, dust and manure through exposure to cuts in skin	Stiffness, muscle spasms, fever	Broken bones, difficulty breathing, death
Diphtheria	Tdap vaccine	Bacterial infection spread through direct contact with droplets from infected person through coughing or sneezing	Sore throat, mild fever, weakness, swollen glands	Damage to heart muscle, difficulty breathing, respiratory and heart failure, death
Pertussis (whooping cough)	Tdap vaccine	Bacterial infection spread through direct contact with droplets from infected person through coughing or sneezing	Severe cough with "whooping" sound, runny nose, vomiting from severe coughing	Pneumonia, loss of bladder control, rib fractures, death
Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	HPV9 vaccine	Contagious virus spread through intimate skin-to-skin contact	Often no symptoms but some are warts, pre-cancerous or cancerous lesions of mouth, throat, cervix***, anus, penis or other areas	Cancers of mouth, throat, cervix, anus, and genital regions, genital warts, and death from cancer
Meningococcal disease	MCV4 and Men B vaccines	Exchange of nose and throat droplets through coughing, sneezing, kissing, sharing utensils, etc.	Headache, stiff neck, nausea and vomiting, confusion, sleepiness	Meningitis, bloodstream infection, hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, loss of limbs, death
Influenza	Seasonal Influenza vaccine	Contagious virus spread through droplets from infected person coughing or sneezing	Sudden onset of symptoms including fever, chills, dry cough, headache, runny nose, sore throat, muscle and joint pain	Extreme fatigue, hospitalization, pneumonia, death
Hepatitis A	Hepatitis A vaccine	Contagious virus usually spread by fecal (stool)-oral route, can be spread by close contact with infected person	Fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting, jaundice (yellowing of skin/eyes), cola-colored urine, clay-colored stools	Hospitalization, death

*** The HPV9 vaccine is highly effective at preventing cervical precancers, but it does not eliminate the need for routine cervical cancer screenings (Pap test) as recommended by a healthcare provider. This screening is important because it can detect early precancerous changes so treatment can begin before cancer develops.