



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

Karen Shelton, MD
State Health Commissioner

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February 27, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians of Rising 12th Graders:

As the Virginia State Health Commissioner, a doctor, and a parent, your child's health is a priority for me. I especially value the role you have in protecting your child's health. That is why I am sharing information about the MenACWY vaccine. This vaccine protects your child against a group of bacteria (types A, C, W, Y) that cause meningococcal disease. Meningococcal disease spreads through activities such as sharing drinks or coughing. The symptoms may appear like the flu including fever, headache, and stiff neck. Symptoms may also quickly worsen and develop into severe health problems.

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommend a dose of the MenACWY vaccine at 16 years of age. To enter 12th grade in Virginia, a single dose of MenACWY vaccine is required after the 16th birthday. School vaccine requirements protect students from potential serious disease.

Please review the attached information. We also recommend you talk with your child's healthcare provider about the MenACWY vaccine. Your child's healthcare provider can determine if your child is due for a vaccine dose and answer any questions you may have. Your healthcare provider may also recommend the Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine. The MenB vaccine is not required for school. Please remember to get a copy of your child's vaccine record to provide to his or her school. You can find more information at the following link: www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/.

If you have questions, please contact the VDH Immunization Outreach Coordinator, Andrea Mendes at (804) 514-2649 or andrea.mendes@vdh.virginia.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Shelton".

Karen Shelton, MD
State Health Commissioner

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES FOR PRETEENS AND

Meningococcal vaccines help protect against the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease. Meningococcal vaccines are the best way to protect adolescents from getting meningococcal disease

The two most common types of illnesses include infections of the:



Lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis)



Bloodstream



Even with treatment, about **10 to 15** out of **100** people with meningococcal disease will die from it.

- 4 All adolescents should get 2 doses of the meningococcal conjugate ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine.
- 4 They should get the first dose at ages 11-12 and a booster dose at 16 years old.

DOSE 1

Ages 11-12
before entering the 7th Grade

DOSE 2

Age 16
before entering the 12th Grade



SAFE



EFFECTIVE



LONG-LASTING

Please talk with your child's healthcare provider today about getting vaccinated against meningococcal disease.

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements>

- 2 doses of **MenACWY** vaccine are **required** for school enrollment/entry.
- 2 doses of **MenB** vaccine are **recommended** after 16 years of age.