

## 2016-2017 Ohio School Entry Immunization Requirement for Meningococcal Frequently Asked Questions for School Nurses

### ➤ What is the new meningococcal vaccination requirement for students entering the 2016-2017 school year in Ohio?

- ✚ Starting in the 2016-2017 school year, all incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in Ohio schools must have proof that they have the age-appropriate meningococcal (serogroups A, C, W, and Y) vaccines(s).
  - Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade are required to have at least one dose of meningococcal vaccine prior to entry.
  - Students entering 12<sup>th</sup> grade must have a second dose of meningococcal vaccine, with a minimum interval between doses of 8 weeks prior to entry. If the first dose of meningococcal vaccine was administered after the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, a second dose is not required. If a student is 15 years of age or younger, only one dose is required.

### ➤ Meningococcal vaccines licensed in the United States

Trade Name	Type of Vaccine	Serogroups	Year Licensed	Approved Ages
Menomune®	Polysaccharide	A, C, W, Y	1981	2 years and older
Menactra®	Conjugate*	A, C, W, Y	2005	9 months–55 years
Menveo®	Conjugate*	A, C, W, Y	2010	2 months–55 years
MenHibrix®	Conjugate	C, Y and Hib	2012	6 weeks–18 months
Trumenba®	Protein	B	2014	10–25 years
Bexsero®	Protein	B	2015	10–25 years

\*Meningococcal conjugate (serogroups A, C, W, and Y) (MCV4) vaccines are routinely recommended for adolescents and meets the Ohio school entry requirement.

### ➤ Is Meningococcal Polysaccharide (MPSV4) vaccine a valid vaccination for adolescents?

- ✚ The MCV4 vaccine is recommended for adolescents. However, a first dose of meningococcal vaccine administered as MPSV4 vaccine can be counted as valid in the adolescent schedule. The second dose of meningococcal vaccine should always be MCV4 vaccine. **It is recommended if MPSV4 is inadvertently administered as the booster dose, revaccination with MCV4 vaccine is recommended at least 8 weeks later.**<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "Meningococcal Vaccination for Adolescents: Questions and Answers. Information for Healthcare Professionals." CDC. 22 October 2015. Web. 3 December 2015.

➤ **Is meningococcal serogroup B vaccine part of the 2016-2017 requirement?**

✚ No, currently there are no school entry requirements for meningococcal B vaccine in Ohio.

➤ **Why does the CDC recommend a routine booster dose of MCV4 for adolescents age 16 years and older?**

✚ Protection from a single dose of MCV4 vaccination declines in most teens within 5 years. A second dose is needed at age 16 to boost teens' protection during the ages when they are at highest risk of meningococcal disease.<sup>2</sup>

➤ **What if a student received one dose MCV4 vaccine just before their 16th birthday? Do they still need the second dose?**

✚ Yes, even if the student was vaccinated at age 15 years 11 months, they will need a second dose after age 16. The minimum interval between dose one and dose two must be at least 8 weeks.

➤ **What if a student received MPSV4 or MCV4 vaccine before the age of 10?**

✚ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states any doses of either MPSV4 or MCV4 given before 10 years of age do not count as part of the adolescent series. If a child received a dose of either MPSV4 or MCV4 before 10 years of age, they should receive a dose of MCV4 on or after 10 years and a booster dose on or after age 16 years.<sup>3</sup>

➤ **What if 2 doses were given after the student's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday but before their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday? Will they need another dose after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday?**

✚ No, if the student received 2 doses after 10 years of age with a minimum interval of at least 8 weeks between dose one and dose two, they do not need to have a booster dose after 16 years. However, this situation should be an exception. The CDC recommends the second dose be administered at or after 16 years of age so that the adolescent has boosted protection during the ages when they are at highest risk.

➤ **What if a student had meningitis as an infant or child, will they still need the vaccine?**

✚ A history of meningitis does not meet the school requirement. Students with a history of meningitis will still need to meet the meningococcal vaccination requirements for 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade entry.

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<sup>2</sup> "Meningococcal Vaccination for Preteens and Teens: Questions and Answers. Information for Parents and Teenagers" CDC. 22 October 2015. Web. 3 December 2015.

<sup>3</sup> "Ask the Experts: Meningococcal Disease" *Immunization Action Coalition*. 5 November 2015. Web. 3 December 2015.

➤ **Instead of getting a meningococcal vaccination to meet the requirement, can a student get a blood test to check for protection (immunity) against meningitis?**

✚ According to the CDC the only test for which there is a correlate of immunity is a serum bactericidal assay (SBA). This test is primarily used for research and is not likely to be commercially available. An IgG EIA that might be available at a commercial laboratory is not useful for determining immunity. Serologic testing is not recommended except perhaps in a research setting.<sup>4</sup>

➤ **What if a student has always been in the Ohio school system, can they be “grand-fathered” in and not need the second shot for 12<sup>th</sup> grade?**

✚ All incoming 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders are required to be fully vaccinated with the age appropriate doses regardless of whether or not they are a ‘new’ student.

**NOTE: All vaccine doses should be administered according to the most recent version of the *Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 through 18 Years* or the *Catch-up Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 4 Months Through 18 Years Who Start Late or Who Are More than 1 Month Behind*, as published by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.**

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<sup>4</sup> “Ask the Experts: Meningococcal Disease” *Immunization Action Coalition*. 5 November 2015. Web. 3 December 2015.