

Meningococcal Meningitis

The Michigan Department of Education, in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Community Health, is required by law (2005 PA 240, MCL 380.1177a) to develop and make available to schools information on Meningococcal Meningitis.

Protect your child from serious diseases that can affect preteens and adolescents

Pre-teens and adolescents need vaccines to protect them from serious illnesses. Immunizations begin at birth and continue throughout life. These shots are an important step to maintain your child's health.

Meningococcal Meningitis disease is a serious illness caused by bacteria which infects the blood or tissues around the brain and spinal cord.

- This germ can be spread from person to person by close contact.
- Common symptoms include a fever, rash, headache, or stiff neck.
- It can lead to brain damage, disability, and death.

Meningococcal Meningitis vaccine (MCV4) can protect children and adolescents from this disease.

- This vaccine is usually given to 11-12 year olds (6th graders).
 - Because it is a newer vaccine, older adolescents may not have received it. Teens that have not had Meningococcal Meningitis vaccine should be given a dose.
 - Ask your child's health care provider if he/she needs the Meningococcal Meningitis vaccine.
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- To obtain the Meningococcal Meningitis vaccine and other immunizations for your child, see your child's health care provider or your local health department.
 - For more information about the Meningococcal Meningitis vaccine or other immunizations, talk to your child's health care provider or call your local health department. Information is also available at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website: www.cdc.gov/nip

There are vaccines that can protect pre-teens and adolescents from other serious diseases. Sixth graders and teens need the following shots if they have not already received them:

- 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine (MCV)
- 1 dose of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis vaccine (Tdap)
- 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine (hep B)
- 2 doses of measles mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR)
- 1 or 2 doses of chickenpox vaccine (var), if they did not have the disease
- At least 3 doses of polio vaccine (IPV or OPV)
- Some children & teens may need hepatitis A and flu vaccine