



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Karen Shelton, MD
State Health Commissioner

Department of Health
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RICHMOND, VA 23218

TY 7-1-1 OR
1-800-828-1120

February 7, 2025

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 Meningococcal ACWY (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), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) recommend a dose of the MenACWY vaccine at 16 years of age. To enter 12th grade in Virginia, a single dose of the MenACWY vaccine is required after the 16th birthday.

School vaccine requirements protect students from potentially serious diseases. Please review the attached information. Your child's healthcare provider can determine if your child is due for a vaccine and answer any questions you may have. Your child's healthcare provider may also recommend the Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine. Although the MenB vaccine is not required for school, it can protect your child from meningococcal disease type B.

It is important to check in with your child's healthcare provider every year to ensure your child is up to date on preventative care, including routine immunizations and annual dental cleanings. If your child does not have a healthcare provider, you can find a Vaccines for Children provider at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/vvfc/locatevvfcprovider/>. These providers are also able to administer free vaccines to persons who are not able to pay.

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 black ink, appearing to read "Karen Shelton MD".

Karen Shelton, MD
State Health Commissioner

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES FOR PRETEENS AND TEENS

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

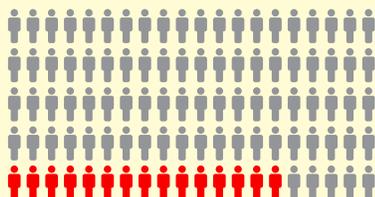
The two most common types of illnesses include infections of the:



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.

- ✓ All **adolescents** should get **2 doses** of the meningococcal conjugate ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine.
- ✓ 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

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



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/>