



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Parham Jaber, MD, MPH  
Acting State Health Commissioner

Department of Health  
P O BOX 2448  
RICHMOND, VA 23218

TTY 7-1-1 OR  
1-800-828-1120

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Dear Parents of Rising 12<sup>th</sup> Graders:

As a public health physician and a parent, I value the many decisions you make every day to protect your child's health. I am sharing important information about the Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine.

The Virginia Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly recommend a dose of the MenACWY vaccine for children at 16 years old. This proven vaccine safely protects your teen from meningococcal infections that easily spreads in close settings like schools. As of July 1, 2021, the MenACWY vaccine is required for 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders for school attendance in Virginia.

To continue protecting your family, it is important to schedule an annual check-up with your healthcare provider where you can learn more about the MenACWY vaccine. Your healthcare provider may also recommend the Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine however it is not required for school enrollment. Please remember to give your child's vaccine record to his or her school. To learn more, I have included a MenACWY flyer. You can also visit our website for more information at [www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/).

Should you have any questions please contact Erica Hunter, Immunization Data & Outreach Manager at the Virginia Department of Health, by telephone at (804) 864-8057 or by email, [erica.hunter@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:erica.hunter@vdh.virginia.gov) or Joanna Pitts, School Health Nurse Consultant, at the Virginia Department of Health by telephone 804-864-7590 or by email, [joanna.pitts@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:joanna.pitts@vdh.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

Laurie Forlano, DO, MPH  
Acting Virginia State Epidemiologist

# 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.*

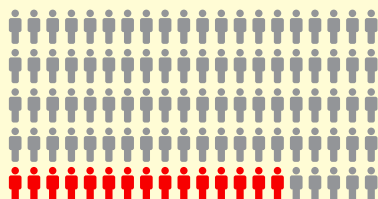
**The two most common types of illnesses include infections of the:**



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/>

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