



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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B. Cameron Webb, MD, JD  
State Health Commissioner

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Dear Parents/Guardians of Rising 12th Graders:

As the Virginia State Health Commissioner, students and their health are a priority to me. School vaccinations are a way to keep students healthy now and into their future. This letter provides information about school vaccines for your rising 12th grader.

**The following vaccine is required for rising 12th graders on or after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

- Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)

**The MenACWY vaccine protects your child against meningococcal disease.**

- Meningococcal disease spreads through activities such as sharing drinks or coughing.
- Symptoms may appear like the flu, including fever, headache, and stiff neck.
- Symptoms may also quickly worsen and develop into severe health problems.

Your child's healthcare provider may also recommend the Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine. The MenB vaccine is not required for school. However, MenB can also protect your child from meningococcal disease type B.

**Please schedule an appointment with a healthcare provider early** to beat the rush. If your child **does not have health insurance**, they may be eligible for the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. You can find a Vaccines for Children (VFC) provider at

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/vvfc/locatevvfcprovider/>. These providers can give free vaccines to persons **who qualify and are not able to pay**. If your child **does not have a healthcare provider**, you can contact your local health department at <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/health-department-locator/>.

**Please check with your child's school for other enrollment requirements.** School enrollment information and a checklist are available at [www.vdh.virginia.gov/backtoschool/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/backtoschool/).

Please remember to **get a copy of your child's vaccine record to provide to his or her school**. A copy of your child's vaccine record may be available online at <https://myirmobile.com/>.

**For more information about school vaccinations in Virginia:**

<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/immunization/requirements/>. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Mendes at (804) 514-2649 or [andrea.mendes@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:andrea.mendes@vdh.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

Dr. Cameron Webb  
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*

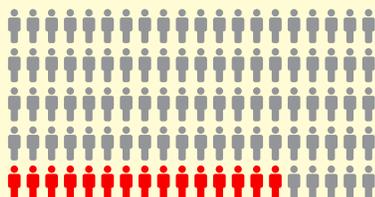
**The two most common types of illnesses include infections of the:**



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/>