



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

B. Cameron Webb, MD, JD
State Health Commissioner

Department of Health
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RICHMOND, VA 23218

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1-800-828-1120

February 25, 2026

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 16th 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/.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Webb".

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

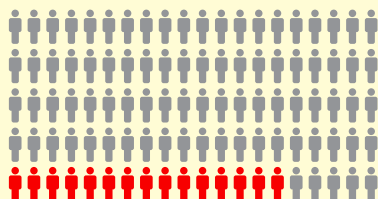
The two most common types of illnesses include infections of the:



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/>