



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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Dear Parents/Guardians of Rising 7th 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 7th grader.

The following vaccines are required for children entering 7th grade in Virginia:

- Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis)
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY)

Please schedule an appointment with a healthcare provider early to beat the rush. During the visit, **talk with your child's healthcare provider about the vaccines your child needs for school.** The HPV vaccine **prevents six types of cancer.** As a parent or guardian, you have the right to decide if your child gets the HPV vaccine. Please review the important information attached to this letter.

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/>.

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/>.

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/.

For more information about school vaccinations in Virginia, please visit <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

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) VACCINE FACTS

FACT1: HPV VACCINE PREVENTS CANCER



Prevents
6 different
types of cancers



37,000+
cancers are caused
by HPV each year



Healthy diet



Physical activity



Sunscreen



No tobacco



Vaccine

We can help our children reduce their risk of developing cancer in the future by helping them make **healthy choices**. We can also help prevent cancer by getting our children the **HPV vaccine**.

FACT2: HPV VACCINE IS SAFE AND EFFECTIVE

More than
15 years
worth of **safety** and
effectiveness monitoring
that continues today.

98%
effective at creating
immunity to HPV
types in the vaccine.

More than
135 million
doses of HPV vaccines
have been distributed. Data
continue to show the HPV
vaccine is **safe** and **effective**.

FACT3: HPV VACCINE PROVIDES IMMUNITY



The HPV vaccine produces the **strongest immune response** in preteens. To work best, the HPV vaccine should be given in a series of shots between the ages of **11 to 12**, or as early as 9 years old.

FACT4: HPV VACCINE PROTECTS GIRLS AND BOYS



Since 2006, the percentage of cervical precancers caused by HPV has dropped by **40%** among vaccinated females.



The HPV vaccine can prevent the **80%** of head and neck cancers caused by HPV in males.

FACT5: HPV VACCINE OFFERS LONG-TERM PROTECTION



People who **received** HPV vaccine remained **protected** from the virus with **no** evidence of the protection decreasing over time.

Where to get the HPV vaccine:

- **Healthcare provider**
- **Local Health Department**
- **Vaccines for Children Provider**

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

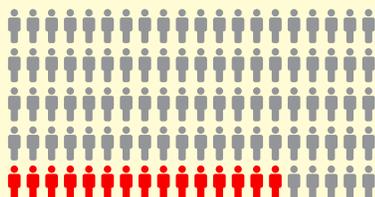
The two most common types of illnesses include infections of the:



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/>