

2016-2017 Ohio School Entry Requirement for Meningococcal Vaccine

Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the new meningococcal vaccination requirement for students entering the 2016-2017 school year in Ohio?**
 - ✚ Starting in the 2016-2017 school year, all incoming 7th grade and 12th grade students in Ohio schools must have proof that they have the age-appropriate meningococcal vaccines (serogroups A, C, W, and Y).
 - Students entering 7th grade are required to have at least one dose of meningococcal vaccine prior to entry.
 - Students entering 12th grade must have a second dose of meningococcal vaccine, with a minimum interval of 8 weeks between dose one and dose two. If the first dose of meningococcal vaccine was administered after the 16th birthday, a second dose is not required. If a student entering 12th grade is 15 years of age or younger, only one dose is required.

- **What are the available meningococcal vaccines that protect against serogroups A, C, W and Y?**
 - ✚ There are two types of meningococcal vaccines in the United States that protect against meningococcal serogroups A, C, W, and Y:
 1. **Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4).**
 - The MCV4 vaccine is normally recommended for adolescents and meets the school requirement.
 2. **Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4).**

- **Is MPSV4 vaccine a valid vaccination for adolescents?**
 - ✚ The MCV4 vaccine is normally recommended for adolescents. However, the MPSV4 vaccine can be counted as valid for the first dose of meningococcal vaccine. The second dose of meningococcal vaccine should always be MCV4 vaccine. **If MPSV4 is inadvertently administered as the second (booster dose), revaccination with MCV4 vaccine is recommended at least 8 weeks later.**¹

- **Is meningococcal serogroup B vaccine part of the 2016-2017 requirement?**
 - ✚ No. Currently there are no school entry requirements for meningococcal B vaccine in Ohio.

- **Why does the CDC recommend a routine booster dose of MCV4 for adolescents age 16 years and older?**
 - ✚ Protection from a single dose of MCV4 vaccination declines in most adolescents within 5 years. A second dose is needed at age 16 to boost protection during the ages when adolescents are at highest risk of meningococcal disease.²

¹ "Meningococcal Vaccination for Adolescents: Questions and Answers. Information for Healthcare Professionals." CDC. 22 October 2015. Web. 3 December 2015.

² "Meningococcal Vaccination for Preteens and Teens: Questions and Answers. Information for Parents and Teenagers" CDC. 22 October 2015. Web. 3 December 2015.

- **What if a student received one dose of MCV4 vaccine just before the 16th birthday? Does the student need the second dose?**
 - ✚ Yes. If the student was vaccinated at age 15 years 11 months, the student will need a second dose after age 16. The minimum interval between dose one and dose two must be at least 8 weeks.

- **What if a student received MPSV4 or MCV4 vaccine before the age of 10?**
 - ✚ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that any dose of either MPSV4 or MCV4 given before 10 years of age does not count as part of the adolescent series. If a child received a dose of either MPSV4 or MCV4 before 10 years of age, the child should receive a dose of MCV4 at 11 or 12 years of age and a booster dose on or after age 16 years to meet the school requirement.³

- **What if 2 doses of meningococcal vaccine were given after a student's 10th birthday, but one dose was before the 16th birthday? Will the student need another dose after the 16th birthday to meet the school requirement?**
 - ✚ Yes. If the student received 2 doses after 10 years of age, but the last dose was before age 16, the student will need to have an additional booster dose after 16 years of age. The CDC recommends the final dose be administered at or after 16 years of age so that the adolescent has boosted protection during the ages when they are at highest risk.

- **What if a student had meningitis as an infant or child, will they still need the vaccine?**
 - ✚ Yes. A history of meningitis does not meet the school requirement. A student with a history of meningitis will still need to meet the meningococcal vaccination requirement for 7th and 12th grade entry.

- **Instead of getting a meningococcal vaccination to meet the requirement, can a student get a blood test to check for protection (immunity) against meningitis?**
 - ✚ According to the CDC the only test for which there is a correlate of immunity is a serum bactericidal assay (SBA). This test is primarily used for research and is not likely to be commercially available. An IgG EIA that might be available at a commercial laboratory is not useful for determining immunity. Serologic testing is not recommended except in a research setting.⁴

- **If a student has always been in the Ohio school system, can they be exempted or "grandfathered in" and not need the second dose of MCV4 for 12th grade?**
 - ✚ No. All incoming 7th and 12th graders are required to be fully vaccinated with the age appropriate doses regardless if they are a new or existing student.

NOTE: All vaccine doses should be administered according to the most recent version of the *Recommended Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 0 through 18 Years* or the *Catch-up Immunization Schedule for Persons Aged 4 Months Through 18 Years Who Start Late or Who Are More than 1 Month Behind*, as published by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

³ "Ask the Experts: Meningococcal Disease" *Immunization Action Coalition*. 5 November 2015. Web. 3 December 2015.

⁴ "Ask the Experts: Meningococcal Disease" *Immunization Action Coalition*. 5 November 2015. Web. 3 December 2015.