Indiana State Department of Health
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Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

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State Health Commissioner

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the human papillomavirus (HPV) causes more than 26,000 new cases of cancer in U.S. men and women each year, including cervical and oral cancers. Many of these cancers can be prevented with a safe, effective vaccine that is available to boys and girls starting at age 9. Indiana Code 20-34-4-3 requires that the Indiana State Department of Health make you aware of HPV, its link to cancer, and the available vaccine.

The CDC has stated that, based on recent studies, HPV is so common that nearly all sexually active people will get it during their lifetime.[1] That is why it's important to vaccinate children before they could be exposed to the virus. According to the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians and the American College of Physicians, all boys and girls ages 11 or 12 should get vaccinated.[2] Although older teens and young adults can receive the vaccine through age 26, studies have shown that the vaccine produces a better immune response at earlier ages.

The HPV vaccine offers long-lasting protection against nine types of HPV and has proven to be effective in preventing numerous types of cancers, including cervical and oral pharyngeal cancers. It also protects against genital warts. The vaccine can be given at the same time as other recommended vaccines and is administered in a two- or three-dose series, depending on the age of the patient when the series is initiated. It is important to complete the series.

These vaccines have been studied carefully for safety. According to CDC, nearly 100 million doses have been administered in the United States and the data continues to show that the HPV vaccine is safe and effective. As with any vaccine, preteens and teens should sit or lie down for about 15 minutes after receiving the HPV vaccine to protect against fainting.

While HPV is not a required immunization in Indiana, it is one of the few tools available to prevent cancer. We urge you to discuss the vaccine with your child's healthcare provider. Questions may be directed to the Indiana State Department of Health Immunization Program at (800) 701-0704.

For more information on HPV and the vaccine, please visit:
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) HPV website: http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/default.htm
CDC HPV Vaccine Website: http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hpv/
Immunization Action Coalition (IAC) HPV Website: http://www.vaccineinformation.org/hpv/

Yours in Health,

The Indiana State Department of Health Immunization Division

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[1] http://www.cdc.gov/hpv/whatishpv.html
[2] https://www.cdc.gov/hpv/parents/vaccine.html

August 13, 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

Meningococcal meningitis and certain bloodstream infections can be caused by a bacterium called *Neisseria meningitidis*. Infections caused by this bacterium are serious and can quickly turn critical, leading to brain damage, hearing loss, and even death. This bacterium is spread from person to person by sharing respiratory or throat secretions. This typically occurs during close contact, such as kissing or sharing eating utensils, or through persons living in close quarters, such as dormitories[1].

There are two types of meningococcal vaccine available in the United States to protect against these infections. The meningococcal conjugate vaccine, also referred to as MCV4, protects against meningococcal serogroups A, C, W and Y. The meningococcal serogroup B vaccine, also known as MenB, protects against serogroup B. Since these vaccines protect against different serogroups of the bacterium, they are not interchangeable. It is necessary to receive a complete series of both vaccines for protection against these 5 serogroups of meningococcal bacteria. Neither type of vaccine contains live meningococcal bacteria.

The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination of all children with the MCV4 vaccine (Menactra or Menveo) at 11 or 12 years of age. A booster dose at age 16 is also recommended to provide ongoing protection from the disease after high school. The CDC also recommends that a MenB vaccine (Bexsero or Trumenba) 2-dose series may be administered to persons 16 through 23 years of age. The child's healthcare provider may make a recommendation regarding the MenB vaccine based on the child's needs[2].

The state of Indiana requires all students in grades 6-12 to have the appropriate number of MCV4 vaccine doses for the 2018-2019 school year. One dose is required for all students entering 6th-11th grade. A second dose is required for students entering 12th grade. Many colleges and universities require this vaccine for incoming students as well. The MenB vaccine is not an Indiana grade school requirement at this time and does not meet the meningococcal vaccine (MCV4) requirement for school entry.

All students must have acceptable documentation of required immunizations on record at the school they are currently attending. Acceptable documentation includes includes a signed record from the child's health care provider indicating the name of the vaccine given and the date it was given, a record of the immunization in the state immunization registry (CHIRP) prior to the start of the school year, or a record from another school showing the required immunizations have been given.

Many local health departments and private healthcare providers offer these vaccines. Please contact your healthcare provider for specific instructions regarding your child.

More information about meningococcal disease can be found at these websites:
http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/default.htm

http://www.in.gov/isdh/25455.htm

[1] http://www.who.int/csr/disease/meningococcal/en/
[2] https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/public/index.html