

NEW!

VIRGINIA MANDATE ALERT



IS YOUR TEENAGER UP TO DATE ON THEIR MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINATION?

WHAT IS MENINGITIS?

Meningitis is a rare but serious illness that causes swelling of the tissues that protect the brain and spinal cord.¹ There are different types of meningitis, the most common of which are caused by bacteria or viruses.¹

HOW CAN MENINGITIS AFFECT MY TEEN?

One type of meningitis, meningococcal meningitis, can cause long-term disabilities or death.² Meningococcal meningitis outbreaks can occur in schools and college campuses, where students are frequently close together.² Teens being in close contact with one another increases their risk of getting meningococcal disease and spreading it to others.^{2,3}

HOW CAN I HELP PROTECT MY TEEN?

A vaccine can help protect your child against meningococcal meningitis,⁴ and it's covered by most insurance plans.⁵

NEW MANDATE

Many states, including Virginia, have passed laws requiring meningococcal meningitis vaccination for students. In fact, starting July 1, 2021, two properly spaced doses of MenACWY are required in Virginia, with the first dose administered before entry to 7th grade and the second dose administered before entry to 12th grade.⁶

MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS CAN BE SCARY, BUT CAN BE PREVENTED.

Ask your doctor today if your child is up to date on their meningococcal vaccinations.

References: 1. Meningitis. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html>. Updated January 21, 2020. Accessed February 25, 2021. 2. Meningococcal disease: technical and clinical information. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/clinical-info.html>. Updated May 31, 2019. Accessed February 25, 2021. 3. Burman C, Serra L, Nuttens C, et al. Meningococcal disease in adolescents and young adults: a review of the rationale for prevention through vaccination. *Hum Vaccin Immunother.* 2019;15(2):459-469. doi: 10.1080/21645515.2018.1528831. 4. Meningococcal vaccines: safety information. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vaccines/meningococcal-vaccine.html>. Updated September 9, 2020. Accessed February 25, 2021. 5. Vaccines for Children program. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated February 18, 2016. Accessed April 9, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/programs/vfc/index.html>. Updated March 31, 2017. Accessed February 25, 2021. 6. §32.1-46. Immunization of patients against certain diseases. Code of Virginia Law website. <https://law.lis.virginia.gov/varcode/32.1-46>. Accessed February 25, 2021.

