



Gerd W. Clabaugh, MPA
Director

Terry E. Branstad
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Kim Reynolds
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Dear Immunization Partner,

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Bureau of Immunization, has completed the administrative rules process to require meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccine for students enrolling in 7th and 12th grades. The administrative rule change was effective January 11, 2017, and will be implemented at the beginning of the upcoming 2017-2018 school year. The immunization requirements chart from the Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 7, Immunization and Immunization Education is available [here](#).

The change requires a one-time dose of meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccine received on or after 10 years of age for applicants in grades 7 and above, if born after September 15, 2004; and 2 doses of meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccines for applicants in grade 12, if born after September 15, 1999; or 1 dose if received when applicants are 16 years of age or older.

Meningococcal disease caused by any serogroup is very serious. Approximately 10 to 15% of people with meningococcal disease die even with appropriate treatment. Of those who recover, up to 20% suffer from serious after-effects, such as permanent hearing loss, limb loss, or brain damage. Meningococcal vaccines are very safe and effective at preventing meningococcal disease. The meningococcal vaccine is 85 – 100% effective at preventing infection from the subtypes of meningococcus found in the vaccine. The National Immunization Survey (NIS) Teen, 2015 results indicate 75% of Iowa adolescents 13-17 years of age have received one dose of the Meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccine. The national average for one dose of meningococcal vaccine is 81.3%. The meningococcal secondary school vaccine requirement will help Iowa achieve and maintain high adolescent vaccine coverage levels, protecting the health of adolescents, friends, families, and communities.

The Immunization Program has developed a variety of materials regarding the new requirements which are available on the program's webpage [here](#). Previous versions of the Certificate of Immunization remain valid and student records do not need to be updated to the current version of the certificate. Healthcare providers may continue to use existing supplies of the Certificate of Immunization and then reorder the new document once supplies are depleted. In addition, the Certificate of Immunization Exemption – Medical, Provisional Certificate of Immunization and Immunization Law and You brochure have been updated to include meningococcal vaccine. The updated materials are available on the Immunization Program webpage and available to order [here](#).

The mission of the Immunization Program is to decrease vaccine-preventable diseases through education, advocacy, and partnership. The Program is committed to keeping you informed of these changes and looks forward to working with you during the implementation of the new requirement for the upcoming school year. If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the Immunization Program at 1-800-831-6293.

Sincerely,

Don Callaghan, Chief
Bureau of Immunization and Tuberculosis