



May 3, 2021

## **New Requirement for Students Entering 11<sup>th</sup> Grade: Must Have Meningitis Booster Vaccine**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Effective July 1, 2021, children 16 years of age and older who are entering the 11th grade (including students new to the district), must have received one booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday.

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness that affects the brain and the spinal cord. Meningitis can cause shock, coma, and death within hours of the first symptoms.

If your teen has not been vaccinated against meningococcal disease, we strongly recommend getting your rising 11th grader, aged 16 years or older, vaccinated before starting the 2021-2022 school year. Getting MCV4 (meningococcal conjugate vaccine) now will not only help protect your child against the ongoing threat of meningitis; it will also meet the new school entry requirement.

Parents of students without health insurance or those whose health plan does not cover these vaccines, may call their local health department, and ask about getting no-cost or low-cost vaccines. For more information, visit <http://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children> or call (800)-848-3868.

\*\* Appointments for vaccinations are required by the Paulding County Department of Public Health (DPH). Parents/guardians will need to contact Latasha Edwards at 770-443-7881 ext. 110 to schedule an appointment.

Please see the school district's Nursing web page for additional information from the DPH regarding this vaccine: <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/domain/5836>

# ATTENTION PARENTS: IT'S BOOSTER TIME!



## THERE'S A NEW GEORGIA SCHOOL ENTRY REQUIREMENT!

Effective July 1, 2020, students entering or transferring into the eleventh grade will need proof of a meningococcal conjugate booster (MCV4) shot, unless their first dose was received on or after their sixteenth birthday.

Meningococcal disease is serious, but your teen can be protected. Check with your doctor or local public health department to find out if your teen is up to date on their MCV4 booster shot and other shots recommended for teens.

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3 de Mayo de 2021

Estimado padre o tutor:

A partir del 1 de julio de 2021, los niños de más de 16 años de edad que entren al 11mo. grado (incluidos los de primer ingreso) deberán haber recibido una dosis de refuerzo de la vacuna conjugada contra el meningococo (MCV4), a menos que les hayan puesto la primera dosis al cumplir 16 años.

La enfermedad por meningococo es una enfermedad bacteriana grave que afecta el cerebro y la médula espinal. La meningitis puede causar un estado de *shock*, coma y la muerte en pocas horas luego de aparecer los primeros síntomas.

Si su adolescente no se ha vacunado contra la enfermedad por meningococo, le recomendamos enfáticamente que lleve a su alumno de 11mo. grado de más de 16 años a vacunarse antes del inicio del año escolar 2021-2022. El hecho de que se pongan ahora el refuerzo de la MCV4 no solo ayuda a proteger a los alumnos de la amenaza actual de meningitis, sino que también les permitirá cumplir con el requisito de nuevo ingreso a la escuela.

Pregunte a su pediatra o al departamento de salud local sobre otras vacunas que su hijo(a) pueda necesitar, como:

- la serie de vacunas contra el virus del papiloma humano (HPV)
- la vacuna contra el tétanos, la difteria y la tos ferina (refuerzo de la Tdap o la Td)
- una vacuna anual contra la gripe; y
- las vacunas atrasadas, como la de la varicela, la del sarampión, paperas y rubeola (MMR) y la de la hepatitis B.

Si su hijo(a) no tiene seguro médico o si su plan no cubre estas vacunas llame a su departamento de salud local y pregunte cómo puede conseguirlas gratis o a un costo bajo. Si desea más información, ingrese a <http://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children> o llame al (800) 848-3868.