

What is the NEW Meningococcal Vaccine School Requirement?

Information from NYSDOH

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Effective September 1, 2016, all students entering grades 7 and 12 in NYS will be required to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease

What grades will be affected?

Students in Grade 7 will require 1 dose of MenACWY vaccine and students in Grade 12 will require 2 doses of MenACWY with last dose on or after 16 years of age or 1 dose of MenACWY on or after age 16 years

What happens if the student had the vaccine earlier than 7th grade?

Any dose of MenACWY vaccine (sometimes abbreviated as MCV4; brand names Menactra or Menveo) received on or after 6 months of age will meet the requirement.

What happens for a 12th grade student never got the initial vaccine?

A 12th grader who never got the initial vaccine should get one dose now. If the first dose is received on or after 16 years of age, then only 1 dose will be required for 12th grade.

If a student in 12th grade received the meningitis B vaccine after age 16, they would have to return for additional Menactra in order to be compliant?

If the student did not receive a dose of MenACWY vaccine (Menactra or Menveo) after age 16, then he or she would need to receive one additional dose of MenACWY in order to meet the grade 12 requirements. Doses of MenB vaccine do not meet the MenACWY vaccine requirement.

Will this be a vaccine that each year more grade levels are impacted?

Yes. As students enrolling in grade 7 in the 2016-17 school year move up a grade level each year, the students enrolling in those higher grades, or grade equivalent, will also be covered by the meningococcal vaccine requirement. The anticipated roll-out will be:

School Year 2016-2017: Grades 7 and 12

School Year 2017-2018: Grades 7, 8 and 12

School Year 2018-2019: Grades 7, 8, 9 and 12

School Year 2019-2020: Grades 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

School Year 2020-2021: Grades 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12

What time frame will be accepted for this new mandate?

No school may allow a child who is not in compliance with immunization requirements to attend school for more than 14 days. The 14-day grace period may be extended up to 30 days for students who are transferring from out-of-state or out-of-country who shows a good faith effort to come into compliance.

What is the minimum age to receive this vaccine?

The minimum age for the first dose is 6 weeks of age. The minimum age for the booster dose is 16 years.

What about high school students, who got the vaccine at age 16 or older, do they still need a booster?

No. Only one dose will be required if the first dose was received at age 16 or older.

What is the minimum interval between doses?

The minimum interval between doses is 8 weeks. A 4-day grace period will be allowed for the minimum interval.

What happens if the student got a combination series as an infant?

The Hib-MenCY combination vaccine was first licensed in 2012 and is only given to infants 18 months of age or younger, so it is highly unlikely that a student entering grades 7 or 12 will have received it. If any schools have students entering grades 7 or 12 that have a vaccine record indicating that they received the Hib-MenCY vaccine (brand name MenHibrix), then the schools are encouraged to call their local health department or the state health department.

Will the NYSDOH provide the vaccine at no charge?

Both Menactra and Menveo are available free of charge through the VFC program to children who are uninsured, under-insured (have health insurance that does not cover MenACWY vaccine), American Indian or Alaska Native, or enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

Will one dose of MenACWY vaccine given at any age be acceptable?

One dose of MenACWY given on or after 6 weeks of age will be acceptable for 7th grade; students entering 12th grade will need to have a dose given on or after 16 years of age.

What if the student received 2 doses of MenACWY before age16? Will they need a 3rd dose?

Students entering grade 12 will need to have received a dose of MenACWY on or after their 16th birthday. The 4-day grace period will apply for students who received the dose within 4 days before their 16th birthday. Students who received any number of doses more than 4 days before their 16th birthday will need a booster dose at least 8 weeks after their most recent dose.

What vaccines will be acceptable for this requirement?

Menactra and Menveo are acceptable. Menomune (MPSV4), while not ordinarily given to people less than 56 years of age, will nonetheless meet the requirements. Hib-MenCY (MenHibrix) is a new vaccine which first became available in 2012 and is only given to infants 18 months of age or younger, so it is highly unlikely that a student entering grades 7 or 12 will have received it. If any schools have students entering grades 7 or 12 that have a vaccine record indicating that they received the Hib-MenCY vaccine, then the schools are encouraged to call their local health department or the state health department.

If the immunization record just states "meningitis" or "meningococcal" without specifically stating Menactra or Menveo, will it be the school nurse's responsibility to investigate the particular vaccine name to ensure that it was the required one that was given?

NYSIIS should reflect the vaccine name but those records are not always updated as timely as we would need them.

In what ways could the vaccine be documented?

MenACWY vaccine may be documented in a variety of ways. It may not be necessary to document the brand name if the vaccine is identifiable as MenACWY vaccine. School nurses should look for any of the following abbreviations or terms: Meningococcal conjugate vaccine, quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine, MenACWY, MCV4, Menactra or Menveo. In addition, while it is not routinely given to children in the U.S., Menomune vaccine (MPSV4) will also meet the school meningococcal vaccine requirements. However, but MenB vaccine (brand names Bexsero and Trumenba) will not meet the school meningococcal vaccine requirements.

MenB vaccine was first licensed in the U.S. in October 2014, however it was used in other countries for several years before it became available in the U.S. If a meningococcal vaccine was given in the U.S. before October 2014, then a school may safely assume that it was either MenACWY or MPSV4, and will meet the school meningococcal vaccine requirements. However, if it was given on or after October 2014 or in another country at any time, then the specific meningococcal vaccine must be specified on the immunization record for the vaccine to meet the NYS school meningococcal vaccine requirements.

Parents and healthcare providers should be asked to specify which meningococcal vaccine was given. In addition, schools should check students' immunization records in NYSIIS or the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR) if the specific meningococcal vaccine is not clearly documented in the immunization record. Most immunization records in NYSIIS and the CIR will state the specific vaccine that was given. If the specific vaccine cannot be identified or assumed through any of these methods, then the student will need to be re-vaccinated with MenACWY vaccine.

Is serological evidence of immunity to meningococcal disease acceptable proof of immunization for school enrollment?

No, serological evidence of immunity **will not be** acceptable proof of immunity for meeting school immunization requirements for meningococcal meningitis vaccine.