NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. Department of Health

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To: School Superintendents, Principals, Nurses and Administrators
From: New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization
Date: November 24, 2015

INFORMATIONAL MESSAGE:
MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2016

The purpose of this informational message is to inform school superintendents, principals, nurses and administrators of new meningococcal vaccine school requirements that will take effect on September 1, 2016.

On October 26, 2015, Governor Cuomo signed into law Chapter 401 of the laws of 2015 which amended New York State (NYS) Public Health Law (PHL) section 2164 to require children entering or attending seventh and twelfth grades on or after September 1, 2016 to receive an adequate dose or doses of vaccine against meningococcal disease as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). Meningococcal meningitis is a serious disease which can lead to death within hours. Survivors may be left with severe disabilities, including the loss of limbs, cognitive deficits, paralysis, deafness, or seizures. In the coming year, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will work with the New York State Education Department and other partners to draft regulations and establish updated immunization requirements charts and other materials to help implement this new requirement.

The ACIP recommendations for meningococcal vaccine are:

- A single dose of vaccine against meningococcal serogroups A, C, W-135, and Y (MenACWY vaccine; brand names Menactra® or Menveo®) should be administered to all adolescents at age 11 or 12 years.
- A second (booster) dose of MenACWY vaccine should be administered at age 16 years.
    - The booster dose is not necessary for adolescents who receive the first dose of MenACWY at 16 years of age or older.
    - The minimum interval between doses of MenACWY vaccine is 8 weeks.
- A serogroup B meningococcal vaccine series (MenB vaccine) may be administered to adolescents and young adults 16 through 23 years of age, at the discretion of the healthcare provider. The preferred age for MenB vaccine is 16 through 18 years of age.

For additional information, please see the websites below:

NYSDOH Meningococcal Disease Fact Sheet
http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/meningococcal/fact_sheet.htm

NYSDOH Childhood and Adolescent Immunizations web page:
http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/childhood_and_adolescent.htm