



Muscogee County School District Student Health Services

School:

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Effective July 1, 2021, children 16 years of age and older who are entering the 11th grade (including new entrants) 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 in the form of meningitis, and the bloodstream in the form of septicemia. It can cause shock, coma, and death within hours of the first symptoms. To help protect your students and others from meningococcal disease, Georgia law requires students be vaccinated against this disease unless the child has an exemption.

To have a smooth registration process and entrance into the 11th grade please provide proof of vaccinations, or other required information, on the Georgia Immunization Certificate form 3231(rev), to your student's school. Please note, the student's name on the Georgia Immunization Certificate must match the name on their birth certificate. Immunization forms are considered invalid if the names do not match.

Your student must have the updated immunizations unless he/she has an religious exemption. **Students without a valid immunization certificate (or valid exemption) on file may be withdrawn from school until a valid form is provided.** If you have any questions about the vaccine, please contact your student's health care provider. The vaccine and the appropriate form are both available at your healthcare provider's office and the Columbus Health Department.

Parents of students without health insurance or those whose health plan does not cover these vaccines, may call the Columbus Health Department at 706-321-6300 and ask about getting no or low-cost vaccines through the Vaccines for Children program. For more information on the vaccination requirements for school attendance in Georgia, visit dph.georgia.gov.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states: "On-time vaccination throughout childhood is essential because it helps provide immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening disease. Vaccines are tested to ensure that they are safe and effective for children to receive at the recommended ages." For more information on vaccinations, and the diseases they help prevent, visit cdc.gov/vaccines.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Itinerant School Nurse
Muscogee County School District