

Indiana State Law IC 20-30-5-18 requires that school corporations provide important information to parents and guardians of all students about meningitis and the vaccines available to prevent meningitis at the beginning of each school year.

Meningitis is a very serious infection of the lining around the brain and spinal cord. This disease can become severe very quickly and often leads to deafness, mental retardation, loss of arms or legs, and even death. Infection is spread from person to person by close contact.

There are two vaccines that can help prevent cases of this disease in teens and young adults. The United States Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination of children with the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra or Menveo) at 11 or 12 years of age, with a booster dose at 16 years of age. The booster dose provides ongoing protection from the disease after high school.

The state of Indiana requires all students in grade 6-12 to have the appropriate number of meningococcal conjugate vaccine doses. One dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine is required for all students in 6th-11th grade. A second booster dose is required for students entering 12th grade. These vaccines are a legal requirement for school entry (Indiana Administrative Code 410 IAC 1-1-1) for the 2014-2015 school year.

Please contact the Lawrence County Health Department or your child's health care provider to schedule an appointment for this vaccine.

Additional information about meningococcal disease can be found at:

The Indiana State Department of Health

http://www.in.gov/isdh/files/Meningococcal_QFV2_2010.pdf

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/default.htm>

The Indiana Department of Education School Health Student Services

<http://www.doe.in.gov/sservices/healthservices/>

Sincerely,

North Lawrence Community Schools Nursing Services

Regina Embree, RN

Erin Sherrill, RN

Sally Summerville, RN