

**ATTENTION:** Parents/Guardians of students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades for the 2016 – 2017 school year.

As of 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.

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.
  - o The booster dose is not necessary for adolescents who receive the first of MenACWY at 16 years of age or older.
  - o 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](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](http://www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/childhood_and_adolescent.htm)