

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy. **Beginning the 2017-2018 school year and thereafter, students entering 12th grade born on or after September 15, 1999 shall have two doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine or 1 dose if one dose was previously received when the student was sixteen years of age or older prior to the first day of school unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization of Exemption (medical or religious). (IA law 641-7.3(2).**

There is no provisional period to implement this requirement if the student has received no meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

Meningococcal disease is a life threatening illness that is caused by a bacteria that causes infections of the lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) and bloodstream infections (bacteremia or septicemia). These bacteria spread through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions like spit (e.g. by living in close quarters, kissing).

Now is a great time for your child to receive these immunization requirements and beat the back-to-school rush by making an appointment for your incoming 12th grader. If your student has already received this vaccine, please ask their clinic to forward (mail, fax, or email) your immunization certificate to the school.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at michelle.berentsen@riceville.k12.ia.us

Thank you for your help with these requirements.

Michelle Berentsen, RN

Heather Sukow, PK-12 principal