

Williamson County Schools

What you need to know about MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINES

**Per state law 49-6-5005 we are required to notify you of the Meningococcal vaccine that is available to you through your Health Care Provider.
This vaccine is NOT required to attend Williamson County Schools.**

1. What is meningococcal disease?

Meningitis is an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and the spinal cord. It can also cause blood infections.

Meningitis can be either bacterial or viral. It is the bacterial meningococcal disease that is a serious illness for all ages.

2. Meningococcal Vaccine

Two vaccines are available in the US. Meningococcal polysaccharide (MPSV4) has been available since 1970's. Meningococcal conjugates vaccine (MCV4) was licensed in 2005. Each vaccine can prevent 4 types of meningococcal disease, including 2 of the 3 types most common in the US. It cannot prevent all types of the disease. Both vaccines work well in about 90% of the people who get it.

3. Who should get meningococcal vaccine and when?

MCV4 is often recommended for all children at their routine preadolescent visit (11-12 years of age). A dose may be recommended at high school or college entry if the child has never received the vaccine before. It may also be recommended for microbiologists, US military, travel to Africa, or for individuals with a damaged spleen.

4. Who could get meningococcal disease?

Anyone can get meningococcal disease. It is most common in infants less than one year of age and people with certain medical conditions, such as lack of a spleen. College freshmen who live in dormitories have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease. In order to get the disease the bacteria must enter the body and settle in the area around the brain and spinal cord.

5. Symptoms of meningococcal disease.

Symptoms may include high fever, severe headache, nausea, vomiting, stiff neck, pain on moving neck, alertness changes such as sleepiness or confusion and sensitivity to light.

6. Who should you contact for more information or concerns?

Contact your Health Care Provider or our local Health Department @ 794-1542.
You can go to the CDC website at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/

Information from:

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for disease control and prevention
National immunization program
Meningococcal 4/4/05 Vaccine Information Statement (Interim)
www.mayoclinic.com/health/meningitis

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