

## **Required Notification about Meningococcal Disease**

To Parent/Guardian of Students in Grades 6-12:

Washington State law requires that you be provided with information about the causes, symptoms, and methods of prevention of meningococcal disease. This can be a deadly disease, so it is important to know this information.

Meningococcal disease is caused by a group of bacteria that lives in the nose and throat, and the illness is known as meningococcal meningitis. Adolescents and young adults have an increased rate of contracting meningitis, as compared to the general population. Symptoms of the disease may include fever, chills, rash, headaches, confusion, and a stiff neck. The disease is spread through direct contact with infected material, including kissing, coughing, sneezing, or sharing eating or drinking utensils.

The Washington State Department of Health wants you to be aware of this illness and the availability of a vaccine to protect against meningitis. Vaccination can help protect against up to 83% of meningococcal disease occurring among adolescents and young adults. While the vaccine is recommended for children entering middle school (aged 11-12) and high school (age 15), the vaccine can benefit all teenagers and young adults. **The vaccine is not required for school attendance.**

The Washington State Department of Health encourages you to learn more about meningococcal disease and to speak to your child's health care provider about the immunization. You can also get more information from these websites:

- **Washington State Department of Health**  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/Meningitis.aspx>
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening>

## **Required Notification about HPV Disease**

To Parent/Guardian of Students in Grades 6-12:

Washington State law requires that you be provided with information about human papillomavirus (HPV) disease and its vaccine.

HPV is a very common virus that is spread through genital contact. There are many types of HPV, and some types can cause cervical cancer or genital warts. Both females and males can get HPV and easily spread it to others without knowing they have it. Most people with HPV have no signs or symptoms.

There is a vaccine that protects against four types of HPV which cause 70 percent of cervical cancers and 90 percent of genital warts. The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the HPV vaccine for all girls entering middle school (age 11-12), and it can be given to females age 9 through 26 years. In October 2009, the FDA approved use of the vaccine for the prevention of genital warts due to HPV in males, and it can be given to males aged 9 through 26 years of age. **The vaccine is not required for school attendance.**

The Washington State Department of Health encourages you to learn more about HPV disease and to speak to your child's health care provider about the vaccine. You can also get more information from these websites:

- **Washington State Department of Health**  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/IllnessandDisease/SexuallyTransmittedDisease.aspx>
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
<http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv/default.htm>