

## IMMUNIZATIONS STUDENTS

The NRC Board of Education shall provide an environment for students to study, interact, and learn. Such an environment shall be reasonably free of known hazards that may threaten or endanger the health of our children or educators.

The board of education shall require that no child be admitted to this school unless and until certification from licensed physician or authorized representative of the State Department of Health is presented to the school administrators that such child has received or is in the process of receiving the immunization required by the State Department of Public Health unless an exemption has been granted from the immunizations on medical, religious, or personal grounds.

If a parent or guardian is unable to pay for the required immunizations, the school will refer the student to the State Department of Public Health for assistance.

The following immunizations are required by the State Department of Public Health prior to the enrollment of a child in public school:

- 5 DPT (Diphtheria – Pertussis – Tetanus) on or after fourth birthday
- 4 Poliomyelitis (unless the third dose was received after the fourth birthday)
- 2 Measles, Mumps, and rubella (MMR)
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 2 Hepatitis A
- 1 Varicella (Chickenpox)

### Pre-K Requires

- 4DPT
- 3 Polio
- 1 MMR
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 2 Hepatitis A
- 1 Varicella

**REFERENCE:** 70 O.S. §1210.191, et seq.  
Oklahoma State Department of Health Regulations

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION

Name of Child Birth Date Name of School Grade

Home Address Parent or Guardian's Name Telephone

TYPE OF EXEMPTION

1. MEDICAL CONTRAINDICATION:

I hereby certify that the immunization(s) specified below are medically contraindicated for the above named child.

Immunization(s)

Immunization(s)

Specify contraindications

Signature of physician

2. RELIGIOUS OBJECTION:

I hereby certify that immunization is contrary to the teaching of the above named child's religion.

Signature of religious leader

3. PERSONAL OBJECTION:

I hereby certify that immunization is contrary to my beliefs. As a parent or legal guardian of the above named child I request an exemption to the immunization requirement for school, day care, or head start center attendance. I have written a brief summary of my objections in the space provided below. I understand that lost records are not grounds for exemption. I also understand that in the event of a disease outbreak in the school my child may have to be excluded for his or her protection and for the protection of the other children in school.

Summarize briefly your objections in this space:

Signature of parent or guardian

Please mail a completed copy of this form to:

Oklahoma State Department of Health
Immunization Program
P. O. Box 53551
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152

## EXEMPTIONS FROM IMMUNIZATION (REGULATION)

Exemptions from immunizations require the following:

1. Medical contradictions: A signed statement (ODH form 216A) from a licensed physician stating the physical condition of the child is such that immunizations would endanger the life or health of the child.
2. Religious objections: A signed statement (ODH form 216A) from the head of a religious organization stating immunizations are contrary to the teachings of the religion.
3. Parental objection: A signed statement (ODH form 216A) from a parent or guardian objecting to the required immunizations.

# Important Information for Parents About Meningococcal Disease and Meningococcal Vaccines from the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Oklahoma State Department of Health

## **What is meningitis?**

Meningitis is an infection of the tissue lining and fluid that surround the spinal cord and the brain. Meningitis is usually caused by a virus or a bacterium. Meningitis caused by a virus is usually less severe and goes away without any special treatment, while meningitis caused by bacteria can be severe and may cause:

- Brain damage,
- Hearing loss,
- Amputation of arms or legs,
- Learning disabilities, or
- Death.

## **What types of bacteria cause meningitis?**

There are several types of bacteria that may cause meningitis, including:

- *Neisseria meningitidis*
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae*,
- Group B streptococcal disease, and
- *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib).

This information sheet will focus on the disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* (Nay-sear-e-a men-in-git-it-dis), which is rare but especially risky for people of certain ages. Disease caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* is usually referred to as "meningococcal disease" (men-IN-jo-kok-ul disease). Many persons are exposed to *Neisseria meningitidis* and carry the bacteria in their nose and throat for weeks or months and spread the bacteria to others, but do not become sick themselves. If the meningococcal bacteria invade the body, they may cause a rapidly spreading infection of the blood, lung infection, or meningitis. More information about the other kinds of bacteria that cause meningitis can be found at the web sites listed in the box at the end of this information sheet.

## **Who is at risk from meningococcal disease?**

Babies less than a year old have the highest risk for meningococcal disease, but no vaccine is available for babies. The risk of meningococcal disease increases for teenagers and young adults 15 through age 21 years of age, because of behaviors that spread the disease. On average, two or three people in this age group get meningococcal disease every year in Oklahoma. More than half of these could be prevented by vaccine.

College students, military personnel, and other people living in close quarters or dormitory-style housing have a greater chance of contracting the disease than other persons their age. Other persons at increased risk include smokers or persons frequently exposed to second-hand smoke, those with immune system

problems, those without a spleen, or international travelers going to countries where the disease is more common.

## **How is the disease spread?**

The disease is spread by respiratory droplets produced by a person harboring the bacteria and expelled a short distance by laughing, singing, coughing, or sneezing. The bacteria may also be spread by direct contact with the respiratory fluids of someone who is infected. That includes kissing, or sharing a water bottle, food item, cigarettes, lipstick, lip balm, mouth guard or anything an infected person touches with his or her nose or mouth.

## **Why is meningococcal disease dangerous?**

Meningococcal disease is relatively uncommon with about 2,500 people affected every year in the United States. However, the infection can spread very quickly and 300 of those people die in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, about 400 a year lose their arms or legs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous systems, become mentally retarded, or suffer seizures or strokes.

For this reason, it is best to prevent the disease from occurring. Signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease may be confused with other infectious diseases. If your child has symptoms of meningococcal disease, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

### **Signs and Symptoms of Meningitis**

- Headache
- Fever
- Chills
- Stiff neck
- Extreme tiredness
- Vomiting
- Sensitivity to light
- Rash of purplish black-red dots or splotches
- Confusion
- Seizures

## **How can meningococcal disease be prevented?**

Vaccines can prevent approximately two-thirds of the meningococcal disease cases. There are two types of meningococcal vaccine available in the United States (MCV4 and MPSV4) that protect against four of the five most common disease-causing strains of the meningococcal bacteria.

MCV4 stands for meningococcal conjugate vaccine and MPSV4 stands for meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine. Two doses of MCV4 are recommended for:

- All adolescents 11-18 years of age, and
- Other people at high risk 2 through 55 years of age.

MCV4 should be given to all adolescents at age 11 or 12 years, unless they have received it before. A booster dose is due at age 16 years. For adolescents who receive the first dose at age 13 through 15 years, a one-time booster dose should be given at age 16 through 18 years.

Children 2 years of age and older and adults who are at high risk for meningococcal disease should receive 2 doses spaced 2 months apart. People at high risk include individuals who:

- Do not have a spleen,
- Have terminal complement deficiencies,
- HIV infection, or
- Will be traveling to countries with high rates of meningococcal disease.

Teens and young adults age 16 through 21 years who receive(d) their first dose of MCV at 16 years of age or older do not need a booster dose.

MPSV4 protects against the same types of meningococcal bacteria as MCV4 and is indicated for use in adults over 55 years of age who are at risk for meningococcal disease.

Teenagers and young adults can also reduce their risk by taking good care of themselves, by eating a balanced diet, getting enough sleep and exercise, as well as avoiding cigarettes and alcohol.

### ***Is this vaccine required to attend school in Oklahoma?***

Meningococcal vaccine is required for students who are enrolling for the first time in colleges and post-high school educational programs and who will live in dormitories or on-campus student housing. This vaccine is not required for children in elementary or high school in Oklahoma, even though it is recommended for all adolescents 11 years and older.

### ***Is the meningococcal vaccine safe?***

Yes, both types of vaccine are safe; however, there are small risks associated with any vaccine. About half of the people who receive a meningococcal vaccine will have pain and redness where the shot was given, but because the vaccine is not made from the whole bacteria, it cannot cause bloodstream infections or meningitis. A small percentage of people who get the vaccine develop

a fever. Vaccines, like all medicines, carry a risk of an allergic reaction, but this risk is very small.

A few cases of Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), a serious nervous system disorder, have been reported among people who received MCV4. However, GBS is such a rare disease that it is not possible right now to tell if the vaccine is a part of the cause or simply due to chance alone because a number of cases of GBS will occur every year even without the use of MCV4 vaccine.

### ***Does the meningococcal vaccine work?***

Yes. A single dose of MCV4 meningococcal vaccine protects about 90 percent of the people who are immunized against meningococcal disease caused by types A, C, Y, and W-135. These types cause almost two-thirds of all meningococcal disease among teenagers in the United States. It does not prevent type B, which causes about one third of the cases in teenagers.

### ***Does the meningococcal vaccine prevent all cases of meningitis?***

No, it cannot provide protection against other causes of bacterial meningitis or type B meningococcal disease. Scientists have not been able to make a vaccine that will protect against type B.

### ***Where can I get the vaccine for my son or daughter?***

If your child has health insurance, you can obtain the meningococcal vaccine from your regular healthcare provider. All county health departments in Oklahoma have the vaccine available at no charge for children 11 through 18 years of age who:

- Have no health insurance,
- Are Medicaid eligible,
- Are Native American, or
- Have health insurance that does not pay for vaccines or does not pay for meningococcal vaccine;

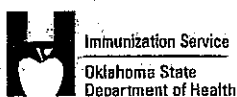
and for children 2 through 18 years of age who are at high risk from meningococcal disease.

### ***Where can I find more information?***

For more information, contact your healthcare provider or local county health department or visit these web sites:

National Meningitis Association at [www.nmaus.org](http://www.nmaus.org)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.htm>



This information sheet was prepared with information obtained from the Oklahoma State Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. (Revised 3-11)



Oklahoma State Department of Education