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Dear Parent/Guardian of 11th grade students,

Meningococcal disease is a life threatening illness caused by bacteria that infect the brain, blood, and spinal cord. It easily spreads in crowded settings.

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Bureau of Immunization, completed the administrative rules process to require meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccine for students enrolling in 12th grade. The administrative rule change was effective January 11, 2017, and was implemented at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

The rule requires 2 doses of meningococcal (A, C, W, Y) vaccines for applicants in grade 12, if born after September 15, 1999; or 1 dose if received when applicants are 16 years of age or older. There must be a minimum of 8 weeks between the 2 doses.

All students entering 12th grade must have proof of Meningococcal vaccination before school starts in August, unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption.

There will be no grace/extension period for the implementation of this requirement. Students MAY NOT begin the school year until proof of the required vaccines is provided to the school.

Now is a great time for your child to receive these immunizations and beat the back-to-school rush. Make an appointment for your current 11th grader to receive these vaccines. Provide proof of Meningitis vaccinations to your school nurse.

For further information regarding this requirement, you may call Scott County Health Department, 563-326-8618, or go to www.scottcountyiowa.com/health.

Thank you,

Gina Ekstrom, RN, BSN

Nurse Manager for DCSD