

Meningococcal/HPV Notice Update

Washington State Legislature requires schools to make meningococcal diseases and human papillomavirus information available to parents or guardians of all students entering grades 6-12.

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND PREVENTION

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness. It spreads through close contact by coughing, kissing, or sharing anything by mouth, such as water bottles, eating utensils, lip balm, or toothbrushes. It can cause pneumonia, blood infections, and meningitis (swelling of the covering of the brain and spinal cord). Severe disease can cause brain damage, loss of hearing or limbs, and death. Fortunately, this life-threatening infection is rare, with only 20-30 cases reported each year in Washington. Adolescents and young adults are more likely to get meningococcal disease, especially if they live in a group setting like college dorms.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE:

The meningococcal vaccine, or MCV4, prevents against four types of the disease. It is a 2-dose series recommended for all children between 11 and 12 years of age, and again at 16 to 18 years of age. **Vaccination is not required for school attendance.**

HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV) AND PREVENTION

HPV is a very common virus that can cause cancers later in life. In the U.S., as estimated 36,000 people are affected by a cancer caused by HPV infection each year. While there is screening for cervical cancer that can detect cancer early, there is no recommended screening for the other cancers caused by HPV infection, like cancers of the throat, anus, penis, vagina, or vulva.

HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CHILD FROM HPV:

HPV vaccination provides safe, effective, and lasting protection against the HPV infections that most commonly cause cancer. HPV vaccination works extremely well. HPV vaccine has the potential to prevent more than 90% of HPV-attributable cancers. Because the vaccine is more effective when given at younger ages, two doses of HPV vaccine are recommended for all children starting at ages 9 to 14. If children do not get the first dose of HPV vaccine before age 15, they will need three doses. **Vaccination is not required for school attendance.**

WHERE TO FIND MENINGOCOCCAL AND HPV VACCINES:

For vaccination information, ask your health care provider or call the Kitsap Public Health District at 360-728-2235. Washington offers vaccines at no cost to kids through age 18 through the Childhood Vaccine Program. Participating providers may charge an office visit fee or

administration fee to give the vaccine. If you can't afford these fees, you can ask to have them waived. This provider map can be used to find providers in the Childhood Vaccine Program: <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/vaccinemap/>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, HPV, VACCINES, AND CERVICAL CANCER:

Washington State Department of Health

- www.doh.wa.gov/hpv
- <https://doh.wa.gov/you-and-your-family/illness-and-disease-z/meningitis-meningococcal-disease>

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

- www.cdc.gov/hpv
- <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents/diseases/mening.html>