



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH

Commissioner

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization

42-09 28th Street, CN21
Queens, NY 11101-4132

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Dear Colleague:

We have been getting several inquiries regarding the meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) school requirements, which includes one dose for entry into 7th and 8th grades and two doses for 12th grade. Please see the full 2017-2018 school immunization requirements at http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/461805A3-25CC-4397-AE8E-F8A32BCF6335/0/Med_Req_Sep_2017.pdf. Health care providers have been asking whether two doses of MenACWY, given at least 8 weeks apart but before 16 years of age, will satisfy the 12th grade school requirement. It will not; a third dose of MenACWY will be required. **For entry into 12th grade, the second dose of MenACWY (or first dose if only one dose was given) must have been administered on or after the 16th birthday.** The requirement that the booster dose be given on or after age 16 has been confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is programmed in the decision support in the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR).

Meningococcal conjugate vaccines are very safe. Although the safety of a third dose of MenACWY has not been formally studied, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) routinely recommends booster doses for high-risk individuals. This means that there are many individuals who have received 3 or more doses of MenACWY. In addition, although not directly applicable to adolescents, the infant schedule for MenACWY is a 4-dose series, which met safety criteria for licensure. Information about vaccine safety, is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/vaccines/meningococcal-vaccine.html>.

A common reason for early MenACWY administration has been for children who are attending camp. There is no increased risk of invasive meningococcal disease among attendees of either day or sleep-away summer camps. Although there is a meningococcal disease education requirement, there is no recommendation or requirement for campers to receive MenACWY any earlier than the recommended ages, i.e., at 11-12 years and a booster on or after age 16 years.

For questions on meningococcal vaccine or any other vaccine-related question, please contact (347) 396-2400 or email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov. For questions about the meningococcal school requirement, go to the New York State website [here](#). Thank you for keeping New York City children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc