

TO: Superintendents

FROM: Phyllis J. Lewis, RN, MSN
Coordinator of Health Services
Indiana Department of Education

DATE: Insert Date Here

A requirement for schools as of July 1, 2005, mandates that each public, non-public, and charter school distribute materials concerning Meningococcal disease and its vaccines to students and parents/guardians of students each year.

Enclosed you will find the following:

1. A copy of the state law. (IC 20-30-5-18)
2. School Corporation Health Report
3. Sample letter to be distributed to parents and guardians

Information to students and parents/guardians should include information about the causes, symptoms, and spread of meningococcal disease as well as places where parents and guardians of students may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children.

The law does not make a distinction about the grade in school in which the information should be distributed. Parents and guardians of all students should have the information. Routine vaccination with the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra) of children 11-12 years of age is recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

When sending home any information include the statement, "Please contact your health care provider for specific instructions regarding your child."

Resources for schools and families to obtain information about meningococcal disease in addition to their local physician/health care provider and local health department include the following websites:

The Indiana State Department of Health
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/22121.htm>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/default.htm>

The Indiana Department of Education Student Services, School Health
<http://www.doe.in.gov/sservices/sn.htm>

Additionally, there is now a section on the School Corporation Health Report (formerly the School Corporation Screening Report) for reporting compliance with the required yearly distribution of information on Meningococcal disease and its vaccine.

Thank you for your assistance in informing students and parents/guardians about this important health issue. For questions, please call Phyllis Lewis, RN, MSN at (317) 232-9142.