



**CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH**

Matthew G. Bevin
Governor

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Vickie Yates Brown Glisson
Secretary

October 9, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Re: New Kentucky Immunization Requirements for School Entry into High School

A recent amendment to the Kentucky Administrative Regulation on the immunization schedules for attending school added new immunization requirements for the school year beginning on or after July 1, 2018.

Effective July 1, 2018:

- **All** students in kindergarten through twelfth grade must show proof of having received two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine to attend school, and
- **Students aged 16 years or older**, must show proof of having received two doses of Meningococcal ACWY vaccine (MenACWY) to attend school. If the first dose of MenACWY was received at age sixteen (16) years or older, the second dose is not required for school entry.

To meet these requirements, a **current** Certificate of Immunization Status must be provided to the school showing the date your child received these vaccine(s). If your child has already received the age-appropriate vaccines for school entry, he or she will not be required to receive the vaccine(s) again.

Acute hepatitis A disease has been in the news in the last several months because of a large outbreak in California caused by the contagious and easily spread hepatitis A virus. Most children with hepatitis A infection have no characteristic symptoms but can easily spread the virus to others. Children with acute hepatitis A disease can have fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, joint pain, stomach pains and diarrhea, or jaundice. Acute liver failure and/or death can occur in the most severe cases.

MenACWY vaccine prevents diseases caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, a type of bacteria that is spread from person to person. Acute illness can appear mild at first, but can progress rapidly, becoming very serious and deadly in a matter of hours.

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Hepatitis A and MenACWY vaccines are available from your doctor, clinic or healthcare provider and are covered as a no-cost preventive service by most health insurance plans when administered by network providers. All local health departments administer Hepatitis A and MenACWY vaccines, especially for children who do not have health insurance. If your child is not up-to-date on immunizations, please contact your healthcare provider or local health department to schedule an appointment or to find out the hours when vaccines are given.

Online information about Hepatitis A and MenACWY vaccines is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/index.html>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jonathan Ballard MD". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Ballard, MD, MPH, MPhil
State Public Health Epidemiologist
Department for Public Health