

**Port Jervis School District**  
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**INFORMATIONAL MESSAGE:  
MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE SCHOOL REQUIREMENT FOR SEPTEMBER 2016**

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The purpose of this informational message is to inform you of “new” meningococcal vaccine school requirements that will take effect on September 1, 2016.

In October 2015 Gov. Cuomo signed into law Chapter 401 of the laws of 2015 which amended NYS Public Health Law section 2164 to require children *entering or attending seventh and twelfth grades on or after September 1, 2016 to receive an adequate dose of vaccine against meningococcal disease as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices*. Meningococcal meningitis is a serious disease which can lead to severe illness, permanent disabilities and even death within hours. Currently, and in the upcoming months, the NYSDOH will work with the NYS Educational Department to draft regulations and establish updated immunization requirement charts and other materials to assist in the implementation of this new requirement.

The ACIP simplified recommendations for meningococcal vaccines are:

1. A single dose vaccine against meningococcal should be administered to all adolescents at age 11 or 12 years.
2. A second (booster) dose should be administered at 16 years. (A second booster dose is not required for those who receive their first dose at age 16 years or older)

If you have a child who will be entering the 7<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grades in the September 2016 school year, please plan on having your child immunized with the meningococcal vaccine prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. Another reminder will be sent home at the end of this school year. Keep in mind that students who are not in compliance with the immunization requirements that, as a public school in NYS we must adhere to, will likely be excluded from school until such time as they are in compliance.

Should you have any questions, have difficulty scheduling an appointment with your child’s primary care physician, or if your child does not have a local physician, please contact your child’s school nurse for assistance.

Thank you for your attention in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

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Nancy J. Dunn RN  
PJ School Nurse Coordinator