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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 10, 2018

TO: School Health Officials

FROM: Jennifer Layden, MD, PHD, Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist *JL*
Gina Lathan, MPH, Immunization Section Chief *GL*

SUBJECT: Child and Student Health Examination and Immunization Code Meningococcal Disease Immunization Requirements.

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance and clarity to school health officials on the specific meningococcal immunization requirements for school age children. In accordance with the Child and Student Health Examination and Immunization Code [77 IAC 665], the following guidance is provided:

- Effective immediately, any child entering the sixth grade shall show proof of having received one dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine on or after his or her 11th birthday. Children who do not meet the age requirement will be monitored in accordance with Section 665.270 of the Child and Student Health Examination and Immunization Code.
- Effective immediately, any child entering the 12th grade shall show proof of having received two doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine prior to entering the 12th grade. The first dose shall have been received on or after his or her 11th birthday, and the second dose shall have been received on or after his or her 16th birthday, at least eight weeks after the first dose. If the first dose is administered when the child is 16 years of age or older, only one dose is required.
- A 10-year-old child entering sixth grade would not be considered out of compliance with the school code if the health care provider documents when the vaccine will be administered (Section 665.270).
- If there is an indication for early vaccination, then Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recommends that the health care provider draft a letter stating the reasons for early vaccination and provide the letter with the vaccine records to the school. The school may accept the letter from the provider without getting an approval from IDPH. School nurses are encouraged to forward only those specific cases with concerns to IDPH Immunization Section.

For additional information, questions or concerns, please contact Karen Pendergrass, Immunization Coverage Level Administrator at Karen.Pendergrass@illinois.gov or 217-524-2432.