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To: Maine Immunization Providers
From: Maine Immunization Program
Subject: NEW Maine School Immunization Requirements
Date: April 13, 2018

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education have revised the Maine School Immunization Requirements rule to now include meningococcal meningitis disease. These changes further align Maine's immunization rules with current national recommendations to better protect the health of all Maine people. Meningococcal disease is a rare, but dangerous disease that strikes healthy young people without warning. It can affect all ages, but teens and young adults are at highest risk of getting the disease.

The following changes are effective for the 2018-2019 school year for all students attending a public or private school in the State of Maine:

- One dose of meningococcal vaccine MCV4 (serogroups A, C, W, and Y) is required for all students entering 7th grade.
- Two doses of meningococcal vaccine MCV4 are required for students entering 12th grade, with a minimum interval of 8 weeks between dose one and dose two. If the first dose of meningococcal vaccine was administered on or after the 16th birthday, a second dose is not required.

Late spring and summer checkups/physicals for sports and summer camps are a perfect opportunity to catch up preteens and teenagers with routinely recommended vaccines. In addition to meningococcal meningitis (MCV4), the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend that adolescents receive vaccines to protect against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap), human papillomavirus (HPV) as well as an annual influenza vaccination.

Please read the attached Frequently Asked Questions for more information.

If you have any questions, please contact the Maine Immunization Program at (207) 287-3746 or (800) 867-4775 or by email at ImmunizeME.DHHS@maine.gov.

Thank you for your work to keep the people of Maine free from vaccine-preventable diseases.