



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

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Commissioner

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Dear Colleague:

We have been getting several inquiries regarding the new meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) school requirements for entry into 7th and 12th grades (see our March 10, 2016, letter at <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/changes-to-immunization-requirements.pdf>). Specifically, health care providers have been asking whether two doses of MenACWY, given at least 8 weeks apart but before 16 years of age, will satisfy the 12th grade school requirement. It will not; a third dose of MenACWY will be required. **For entry into 12th grade, the second dose of MenACWY (or first dose if only one dose was given) must have been administered on or after the 16th birthday.** The requirement that the booster dose be given on or after age 16 has recently been clarified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This requirement is being updated in the Citywide Immunization Registry (CIR).

We also want you to be aware that there is no increased risk of invasive meningococcal disease among attendees of either day or sleep-away summer camps. Although there is a meningococcal disease education requirement, there is no recommendation or requirement for campers to receive the meningococcal series any earlier than the recommended ages, i.e., at 11-12 years of age and a booster on or after age 16 years. A child who received two doses of MenACWY before age 16 will require a third dose in order to attend 12th grade.

For questions on meningococcal vaccine or any other vaccine-related question, please contact (347) 396-2400 or email nycimmunize@health.nyc.gov. For questions about the meningococcal school requirement go the New York State FAQs at: http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/meningococcal/docs/meningococcal_qa.pdf. Thank you for keeping New York City children safe from vaccine-preventable diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane R. Zucker".

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc