



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Cedar County, Iowa**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

**This letter contains important information regarding vaccinations for your 12th grade student.**

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Bureau of Immunization requires students enrolling in the 12<sup>th</sup> grade to have two doses of the meningococcal ACWY vaccine, or one documented dose if given on or after 16 years of age. Meningococcal vaccines are very safe and effective at preventing meningococcal disease, which is extremely serious and can result in death, hearing loss, limb loss or brain damage.

While you are in your health care provider's office receiving these required vaccinations, there are two additional vaccines recommended at this age that help to protect your child's health now and in the future:

- **Meningitis B Vaccine:** Meningitis B vaccine can help protect your child from a serious disease that can attack the lining of the brain and spinal cord or causes a serious infection of the blood. Approximately 10% to 20% of people infected with meningococcal disease will die, sometimes as quickly as 24 hours after symptoms appear. There are five common groups of the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease: A, C, W, Y, and B. More than 60% of meningococcal disease cases that occurred in persons aged 16-24 were caused by Meningitis B in a study performed by the CDC in 2015-2016.
- COVID-19 Vaccine
- Influenza Vaccine

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of vaccines provided in your physician office, our office also accepts BlueCross and United Healthcare insurance. If this is not the case for you, please keep in mind that your student may qualify for free vaccinations in our office if your student meets one of the following criteria:

1. Are enrolled in Medicaid
2. Do not have insurance
3. Have insurance that does not cover vaccinations
4. Are American Indian or Alaska Native

We encourage you to talk to your health care provider today about protecting your student! If you would like to make an appointment at our office in the lower level of the courthouse, please call 563.886.2226.

**Whitney Randolph, RN**  
Public Health Program Coordinator  
Cedar County Public Health