

Dear Parent/Guardian-

The Iowa Department of Public Health has made changes to the Iowa Immunization law that began during the 2017/2018 school year. This change requires that all students entering 12th grade show proof of receiving 2 doses of the meningococcal vaccine; or one dose if the first dose was received at 16 years of age or older.

Meningococcal disease is a life threatening illness that is caused by bacteria that infects the brain, blood, and spinal cord. It easily spreads in crowded settings and typically affects older teens and young adults.

All students entering 12th grade must have proof of having the Meningococcal vaccine **before school starts in August 2018**, unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption.

There will be **no** grace/extension period for the implementation of this requirement.

Now is a great time for your incoming 12th grader to receive this immunization and beat the back-to-school rush by contacting your healthcare provider.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at 563-547-2764 or adrees@howard-winn.k12.ia.us

Thank you for your time and attention to this requirement,

Amy Drees, RN
Crestwood 7-12 School Nurse