

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

March 13, 2025

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Florida Department of Health in Alachua County (DOH-Alachua) in partnership with Fort Clarke Middle School is pleased to offer vaccines on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The recommended vaccines for this age group include Tdap, HPV and Meningococcal ACWY vaccines. Tdap vaccination protects our children from tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whooping cough). HPV vaccinations protect our children from cervical and anal cancer. Meningococcal ACWY protects our children from meningitis, an infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord and infections of the blood.

If you would like your child to receive any of these vaccines, please review the attached vaccine information sheets, complete the 2025 Vaccine Consent Form and return form to the school.

Thank you for taking advantage of this opportunity to vaccinate your child.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Myers, MS
CHD Administrator
DOH-Alachua



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2025 Vaccine Consent Form

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED



**Section 1003.22, Florida Statutes, and Rule 64D-3.046, Florida Administrative Code
Please Print all information written below. (Unreadable and incomplete forms may not be accepted.)*

Full, Legal Name of Student (First Name Middle Initial, Last Name)		Name of School	
Parent/Guardian Name (First Name Middle Initial, Last Name)		Relationship to Student	Grade Sex
Street Address		Email Address	Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY) Age
City		Zip code	Home Phone # Cell Phone #
Race: (Circle One) American Indian/Native Alaskan Asian Black Hispanic Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander White Other			

<input type="checkbox"/> INSURANCE <input type="checkbox"/> MEDICAID (Prestige, United Health Care, Stay Well/WellCare, or Sunshine) <input type="checkbox"/> MY CHILD DOES NOT HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE	
We may bill your insurance for the vaccine. You will not be billed, and there is no co-pay or deductible due. The service is offered at no cost to you! As always, answers are confidential. Please fill out questions regarding your child's health insurance plan:	
Insurance Company:	Member ID:
Policy Holder's Name:	Policy Holder's Date of Birth:

HEALTH QUESTIONS: CHECK YES OR NO FOR EACH QUESTION

****If you answered YES to any one of the below questions (questions one through four), your child cannot receive Tdap vaccine, unless approved by your child's medical provider in advance.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	1. Has the person to be vaccinated ever had a life-threatening reaction(s) to vaccines in the past?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	2. Has the person to be vaccinated ever had Guillain-Barre Syndrome (very rare)?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	3. Does the person to be vaccinated have a long-term health problem with heart disease, lung disease, asthma, kidney disease, metabolic disease (e.g., diabetes), anemia, or other blood disorders?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	4. Has your child had encephalopathy (e.g., coma, decreased level of consciousness, prolonged seizures) not attributable to another identifiable cause within 7-days of administration of previous dose of DTP, DTap, or Tdap?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	5. Does your child have any allergies to food, medicine, or latex? If yes, please specify: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure	6. Is the person to be vaccinated pregnant or could she become pregnant within the next month? (This question is specifically related to the HPV-9 vaccination. If "Yes", your child <u>cannot</u> receive the HPV-9 vaccine.)

****IF YOU HAVE ANY HEALTH QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S PEDIATRICIAN OR CALL THE ALACHUA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO SPEAK WITH A NURSE AT 352-334-7950.**

I have received, read, and understand the CDC Vaccine Information Statement for the Tdap, HPV-9, and Meningococcal ACWY vaccine and viewed the Notice of Privacy Practices found at <https://alachua.floridahealth.gov> keyword: School Immunizations. I have read these documents and understand the risk and benefits of the vaccines. I am authorized to and hereby give my consent and permission to the Florida Department of Health in Alachua County to administer to my child the below indicated vaccines in my absence, and to use private health information for treatment, payment and health care operations as defined in the Notice of Privacy Practices. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions before I sign, and I understand that I can ask additional questions at any time.

Please place a ✓ by the vaccines requested below.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tetanus, Diphtheria, & Pertussis (Tdap) | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Papillomavirus (HPV-9) | <input type="checkbox"/> Meningococcal ACWY (Meningitis Vaccine) |
|--|---|--|

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian _____ Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ Date _____

AREA FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY FOR ADMINISTRATION

Tdap (IM), 0.5ml
VIS: 01/31/25

HPV-9 (IM), 0.5ml
VIS: 08/06/21

Meningococcal ACWY IM, 0.5ml /
VIS: 001/31/25

Date Given: _____

Date Given: _____

Date Given: _____

Arm Right Left

Arm Right Left

Arm Right Left

Vaccine Lot # &
Expiration Date Label

Vaccine Lot # &
Expiration Date Label

Vaccine Lot # &
Expiration Date Label

Signature/Title _____

03/05/25



NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

THIS NOTICE DESCRIBES HOW MEDICAL INFORMATION ABOUT YOU MAY BE USED AND DISCLOSED AND HOW YOU CAN GET ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION.

PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY

USES AND DISCLOSURES OF YOUR PROTECTED HEALTH INFORMATION

Protected health information includes demographic, social and behavioral determinants of health (SBDOH), and medical information that concerns the past, present, or future physical or mental health of an individual. Demographic information could include your name, address, telephone number, Social Security number and any other means of identifying you as a specific person. SBDOH may include, but not be limited to, income, food insecurity, socioeconomic status, education level, homeless. Protected health information contains specific information that identifies a person or can be used to identify a person.

Protected health information is health information created or received by a health care provider, health plan, employer, or health care clearinghouse. The Department of Health (Department) can act as each of the above business types. This medical information is used by the Department in many ways while performing normal business activities.

Your protected health information may be used or disclosed by the Department for purposes of treatment, payment, and health care operations. Health care professionals use medical information in the clinics or hospital to take care of you. Your protected health information may be shared, with or without your consent, with another health care provider for purposes of your treatment. The Department may use or disclose your health information for case management and services. The Department clinic or hospital may send the medical information to insurance companies, Medicaid, or community agencies to pay for the services provided to you.

Your information may be used by certain Department personnel to improve the Department's health care operations. The Department also may send you appointment reminders, information about treatment options or other health-related benefits and services.

Some protected health information can be disclosed without your written authorization as allowed by law. Those circumstances include:

- Reporting abuse of children, adults, or disabled persons.
- Investigations related to a missing child.
- Internal investigations and audits by the Department's divisions, bureaus, and offices.
- Investigations and audits by the state's Inspector General and Auditor General, and the Florida Legislature's Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability.
- Public health purposes, including vital statistics, disease reporting, public health surveillance, investigations, interventions, and regulation of health professionals*.
- District medical examiner investigations*.
- Research approved by the Department.
- Court orders, warrants, or subpoenas.*
- Law enforcement purposes, administrative investigations, and judicial and administrative proceedings*.

*A disclosure of reproductive health records by the Department to law enforcement, a judicial or administrative tribunal, medical examiner, or health oversight entity will require an attestation by

the requesting individual or entity before such records are released by the Department. The attestation requires acknowledgment of one of the following provisions:

- The purpose of the use or disclosure of protected health information is not to investigate or impose liability on any person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating reproductive health care or to identify any person for such purposes; or alternatively,
- The purpose of the use or disclosure of protected health information is to investigate or impose liability on any person for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating reproductive health care, or to identify any person for such purposes, but the reproductive health care at issue was not lawful under the circumstances in which it was provided.

Other uses and disclosures of your protected health information by the Department will require your written authorization. These uses and disclosures may be for marketing or research purposes, certain uses and disclosure of psychotherapist notes, and the sale of protected health information resulting in compensation to the Department,

This authorization will have an expiration date that can be revoked by you in writing.

INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS

You have the right to request that the Department restrict the use and disclosure of your protected health information to carry out treatment, payment, or health care operations. You may also limit disclosures to individuals involved with your care. The Department is not required to agree to any restriction.

You have the right to be assured that your information will be kept confidential. The Department will make contact with you in the manner and at the address or phone number you select. You may be asked to put your request in writing. If you are responsible to pay for services, you may provide an address other than your residence where you can receive mail and where the Department may contact you.

You have the right to inspect and receive a copy of your protected health information that is maintained by the Department within 30 days of the Department's receipt of your request to obtain a copy of your protected health information. You must complete the Department's Authorization to Disclose Confidential Information form and submit the request to the local county health department or Children's Medical Services office. If there are delays in the Department's ability to provide the information to you within 30 days, you will be told the reason for the delay and the anticipated date your request can be fulfilled.

Your inspection of the information will be supervised at an appointed time and place. You may be denied access to some records as specified by federal or state law.

If you choose to receive a copy of your protected health information, you have the right to receive the information in the form or format you request. If the Department cannot produce it in that form or format, you will be given the information in a readable hard copy form or another form or format that you and the Department agree to.

The Department cannot give you access to psychotherapy notes or certain information being used in a legal proceeding. Records are maintained for specified periods of time in accordance with the law. If your request covers information beyond that time, the Department is not required to keep the record and the information may no longer be available.

If access is denied, you have the right to request a review by a licensed health care professional who was not involved in the decision to deny access. This licensed health care professional will be designated by the Department.

You have the right to correct your protected health information. Your request to correct your protected health information must be in writing and provide a reason to support your requested correction. The Department of Health may deny your request, in whole or part, if it finds the protected health information:

- Was not created by the Department.
- Is not protected health information.
- Is, by law, not available for your inspection.
- Is accurate and complete.

If your correction is accepted, the Department will make the correction and inform you and others who need to know about the correction. If your request is denied, you may send a letter detailing the reason you disagree with the decision. The Department may respond to your letter in writing. You also may file a complaint, as described below in the section titled Complaints.

You have the right to receive a summary of certain disclosures the Department may have made of your protected health information. This summary does not include:

- Disclosures made to you.
- Disclosures to individuals involved with your care.
- Disclosures authorized by you.
- Disclosures made to carry out treatment, payment, and health care operations.
- Disclosures for public health.
- Disclosures to health professional regulatory purposes.
- Disclosures to report abuse of children, adults, or disabled persons.
- Disclosures prior to April 14, 2003.

This summary does include disclosures made for:

- Purposes of research, other than those you authorized in writing.
- Responses to court orders, subpoenas, or warrants.

You may request a summary for not more than a 6 year period from the date of your request.

If you received this Notice of Privacy Practices electronically, you have the right to a paper copy upon request.

The Department of Health may mail, text, or call you with health care appointment reminders.

PARTICIPATION IN THE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE NETWORK

Access to information about your health history, societal and behavioral factors, and medical care is critical to help ensure that you receive high-quality care and gives your health care provider a more complete picture of your overall health. This can help your provider make informed decisions about your care. The information may also prevent you from having repeat tests, saving you time, money, and worry. Recent advancements in technology now support the safe and secure electronic exchange of important clinical information from one health care provider to another through Health Information Exchange (HIE) networks. The Department and its county health departments participate in an HIE network and also participate in several HIE

networks with trusted outside health care providers to quickly and securely share your health information electronically among a network of health care providers, including physicians, hospitals, laboratories and pharmacies. Your health information is transmitted securely and only authorized health care providers with a valid reason may access your information. By sharing information electronically through a secure system, the risk that your paper or faxed records may be misused or misplaced is reduced.

Participation in HIE is completely your choice.

Choice 1. YES to HIE participation. If you agree to have your medical information shared through HIE and you have a current Initiation of Services form on file, you need not do anything. By signing that form, you have granted the Department permission to share your health information through the HIE.

Choice 2. NO to HIE participation. You can choose to not have your information shared electronically through the HIE network (opt out) at any time, by completing the Health Information Exchange Opt-Out Form available at the county health department. If you decide to opt out of HIE, health care providers will not be able to access your health information through HIE. You should understand that if you opt out, the health care providers treating you are still permitted to contact the Department to ask that your health information be shared with them as stated in this Notice of Privacy Practices. Opting out does not prevent information from being shared between members of your care team. Please note, opting out does not affect health information that was disclosed through HIE prior to the time you opted out.

Choice 3. You may change your mind at any time.

You may consent today to the sharing of your information via HIE and change your mind later by following the instructions on the opt out form described under Choice 2.

Alternatively, you may opt out of HIE today and change your mind later by submitting the Department's Revocation of HIE Opt Out Request Form.

PERSONAL HEALTH RECORDS (PHR) MOBILE APPLICATION SYNCHRONIZATION WITH USER DATA

As part of the services provided by the Department, you can download the companion PHR mobile application to access your personal health records. This application is the mobile version of the Florida Health Connect portal.

The purpose of the PHR mobile application is to provide you with access to your health information through your mobile device. You can synchronize your Florida Health Connect account through the mobile application with your personal health information captured on your mobile device (Google Fit or Apple Health) to provide you with a 360 degree view of your health history and current health status.

Your Google Fit or Apple Health information will not be disclosed to any third parties without your express written permission.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DUTIES

The Department is required by law to maintain the privacy of your protected health information. This Notice of Privacy Practices tells you how your protected health information may be used and how the Department keeps your information private and confidential. This notice explains the legal duties and practices relating to your protected health information. The Department has

the responsibility to notify you following a breach of your unsecured protected health information.

As part of the Department's legal duties, this Notice of Privacy Practices must be given to you. The Department is required to follow the terms of the Notice of Privacy Practices currently in effect.

The Department may change the terms of its notice. The change, if made, will be effective for all protected health information maintained by the Department. New or revised Notices of Privacy Practices and all forms referenced in this Notice of Privacy Practices may be accessed on the Department's website at <https://www.floridahealth.gov/about/patient-rights-and-safety/hipaa/index.html> and will be available by email and at all Department of Health locations. Also available are additional documents that further explain your rights to inspect, copy, or amend your protected health information.

COMPLAINTS

If you believe your privacy health rights have been violated, you may file a complaint with the: Department of Health's Inspector General at 4052 Bald Cypress Way, BIN A03/ Tallahassee, FL 32399-1704/ telephone 850-245-4141 and with the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at 200 Independence Avenue, S.W./ Washington, D.C. 20201/ telephone 202-619-0257 or toll free 877-696-6775.

The complaint must be in writing, describe the acts or omissions that you believe violate your privacy rights, and be filed within 180 days of when you knew or should have known that the act or omission occurred. The Department will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Requests for further information about the matters covered by this notice may be directed to the person who gave you the notice, to the director or administrator of the Department of Health facility where you received the notice, or to the Department of Health's Inspector General at 4052 Bald Cypress Way, BIN A03/ Tallahassee, FL 32399-1704/ telephone 850-245-4141.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Notice of Privacy Practices is effective beginning February 25, 2025, and shall remain in effect until a new Notice of Privacy Practices is approved and posted.

REFERENCES

"Standards for the Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information; Final Rule." 45 CFR Parts 160 through 164. *Federal Register* 65, no. 250 (December 28, 2000).

"Standards for the Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information; Final Rule" 45 CFR Part 160 through 164. *Federal Register*, Volume 67 (August 14, 2002).

HHS, Modifications to the HIPAA Privacy, Security, Enforcement, and Breach Notification Rules under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act and the Genetic Information and Nondiscrimination Act; Other Modifications to the HIPAA Rules, 78 Fed. Reg. 5566 (Jan. 25, 2013).

45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 RIN 0945-AA20, April 26, 2024.

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Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis) Vaccine: What You Need to Know

Many vaccine information statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

1. Why get vaccinated?

Tdap vaccine can prevent **tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis**.

Diphtheria and pertussis spread from person to person. Tetanus enters the body through cuts or wounds.

- **TETANUS (T)** causes painful stiffening of the muscles. Tetanus can lead to serious health problems, including being unable to open the mouth, having trouble swallowing and breathing, or death.
- **DIPHThERIA (D)** can lead to difficulty breathing, heart failure, paralysis, or death.
- **PERTUSSIS (aP)**, also known as “whooping cough,” can cause uncontrollable, violent coughing that makes it hard to breathe, eat, or drink. Pertussis can be extremely serious especially in babies and young children, causing pneumonia, convulsions, brain damage, or death. In teens and adults, it can cause weight loss, loss of bladder control, passing out, and rib fractures from severe coughing.

2. Tdap vaccine

Tdap is only for children 7 years and older, adolescents, and adults.

Adolescents should receive a single dose of Tdap, preferably at age 11 or 12 years.

Pregnant women should get a dose of Tdap during every pregnancy, preferably during the early part of the third trimester, to help protect the newborn from pertussis. Infants are most at risk for severe, life-threatening complications from pertussis.

Adults who have never received Tdap should get a dose of Tdap.

Also, **adults should receive a booster dose of either Tdap or Td** (a different vaccine that protects against tetanus and diphtheria but not pertussis) **every 10 years**, or after 5 years in the case of a severe or dirty wound or burn.

Tdap may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

3. Talk with your health care provider

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of any vaccine that protects against tetanus, diphtheria, or pertussis**, or has any **severe, life-threatening allergies**
- Has had a **coma, decreased level of consciousness, or prolonged seizures within 7 days after a previous dose of any pertussis vaccine (DTP, DTaP, or Tdap)**
- Has **seizures or another nervous system problem**
- Has ever had **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** (also called “GBS”)
- Has had **severe pain or swelling after a previous dose of any vaccine that protects against tetanus or diphtheria**

In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone Tdap vaccination until a future visit.

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting Tdap vaccine.

Your health care provider can give you more information.



U.S. CENTERS FOR DISEASE
CONTROL AND PREVENTION

4. Risks of a vaccine reaction

- Pain, redness, or swelling where the shot was given, mild fever, headache, feeling tired, and nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomachache sometimes happen after Tdap vaccination.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

5. What if there is a serious problem?

An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call 9-1-1 and get the person to the nearest hospital.

For other signs that concern you, call your health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call 1-800-822-7967. *VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff members do not give medical advice.*

6. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines. Claims regarding alleged injury or death due to vaccination have a time limit for filing, which may be as short as two years. Visit the VICP website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation or call 1-800-338-2382 to learn about the program and about filing a claim.

7. How can I learn more?

- Ask your health care provider.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Visit the website of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for vaccine package inserts and additional information at www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) or
 - Visit CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines.



HPV (Human Papillomavirus) Vaccine: What You Need to Know

Many vaccine information statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

1. Why get vaccinated?

HPV (human papillomavirus) vaccine can prevent infection with some types of human papillomavirus.

HPV infections can cause certain types of cancers, including:

- cervical, vaginal, and vulvar cancers in women
- penile cancer in men
- anal cancers in both men and women
- cancers of tonsils, base of tongue, and back of throat (oropharyngeal cancer) in both men and women

HPV infections can also cause anogenital warts.

HPV vaccine can prevent over 90% of cancers caused by HPV.

HPV is spread through intimate skin-to-skin or sexual contact. HPV infections are so common that nearly all people will get at least one type of HPV at some time in their lives. Most HPV infections go away on their own within 2 years. But sometimes HPV infections will last longer and can cause cancers later in life.

2. HPV vaccine

HPV vaccine is routinely recommended for adolescents at 11 or 12 years of age to ensure they are protected before they are exposed to the virus. HPV vaccine may be given beginning at age 9 years and vaccination is recommended for everyone through 26 years of age.

HPV vaccine may be given to adults 27 through 45 years of age, based on discussions between the patient and health care provider.

Most children who get the first dose before 15 years of age need 2 doses of HPV vaccine. People who get the first dose at or after 15 years of age and younger people with certain immunocompromising conditions need 3 doses. Your health care provider can give you more information.

HPV vaccine may be given at the same time as other vaccines.

3. Talk with your health care provider

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of HPV vaccine**, or has any **severe, life-threatening allergies**
- Is **pregnant**—HPV vaccine is not recommended until after pregnancy

In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone HPV vaccination until a future visit.

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting HPV vaccine.

Your health care provider can give you more information.



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Control and Prevention

4. Risks of a vaccine reaction

- Soreness, redness, or swelling where the shot is given can happen after HPV vaccination.
- Fever or headache can happen after HPV vaccination.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

5. What if there is a serious problem?

An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call 9-1-1 and get the person to the nearest hospital.

For other signs that concern you, call your health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call 1-800-822-7967. *VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff members do not give medical advice.*

6. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines. Claims regarding alleged injury or death due to vaccination have a time limit for filing, which may be as short as two years. Visit the VICP website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation or call 1-800-338-2382 to learn about the program and about filing a claim.

7. How can I learn more?

- Ask your health care provider.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Visit the website of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for vaccine package inserts and additional information at www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call 1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO) or
 - Visit CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines.



Meningococcal ACWY Vaccine:

What You Need to Know

Many vaccine information statements are available in Spanish and other languages. See www.immunize.org/vis

Hojas de información sobre vacunas están disponibles en español y en muchos otros idiomas. Visite www.immunize.org/vis

1. Why get vaccinated?

Meningococcal ACWY vaccine can help protect against **meningococcal disease** caused by serogroups A, C, W, and Y. A different meningococcal vaccine is available that can help protect against serogroup B.

Meningococcal disease can cause meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and infections of the blood. Even when it is treated, meningococcal disease kills 10 to 15 infected people out of 100. And of those who survive, about 10 to 20 out of every 100 will suffer disabilities such as hearing loss, brain damage, kidney damage, loss of limbs, nervous system problems, or severe scars from skin grafts.

Meningococcal disease is rare and has declined in the United States since the 1990s. However, it is a severe disease with a significant risk of death or lasting disabilities in people who get it.

Anyone can get meningococcal disease. Certain people are at increased risk, including:

- Infants younger than one year old
- Adolescents and young adults 16 through 23 years old
- People with certain medical conditions that affect the immune system
- Microbiologists who routinely work with isolates of *N. meningitidis*, the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease
- People at risk because of an outbreak in their community

2. Meningococcal ACWY vaccine

Adolescents need 2 doses of a meningococcal ACWY vaccine:

- First dose: 11 or 12 years of age
- Second (booster) dose: 16 years of age

In addition to routine vaccination for adolescents, meningococcal ACWY vaccine is also recommended for **certain groups of people**:

- People at risk because of a serogroup A, C, W, or Y meningococcal disease outbreak
- People with HIV
- Anyone whose spleen is damaged or has been removed, including people with sickle cell disease
- Anyone with a rare immune system condition called “complement component deficiency”
- Anyone taking a type of drug called a “complement inhibitor,” such as eculizumab (also called “Soliris”*) or ravulizumab (also called “Ultomiris”*)
- Microbiologists who routinely work with isolates of *N. meningitidis*
- Anyone traveling to or living in a part of the world where meningococcal disease is common, such as parts of Africa
- College freshmen living in residence halls who have not been completely vaccinated with meningococcal ACWY vaccine
- U.S. military recruits



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CONTROL AND PREVENTION

3. Talk with your health care provider

Tell your vaccination provider if the person getting the vaccine:

- Has had an **allergic reaction after a previous dose of meningococcal ACWY vaccine**, or has any **severe, life-threatening allergies**

In some cases, your health care provider may decide to postpone meningococcal ACWY vaccination until a future visit.

There is limited information on the risks of this vaccine for pregnant or breastfeeding women, but no safety concerns have been identified. A pregnant or breastfeeding woman should be vaccinated if indicated.

People with minor illnesses, such as a cold, may be vaccinated. People who are moderately or severely ill should usually wait until they recover before getting meningococcal ACWY vaccine.

Your health care provider can give you more information.

4. Risks of a vaccine reaction

- Redness or soreness where the shot is given can happen after meningococcal ACWY vaccination.
- A small percentage of people who receive meningococcal ACWY vaccine experience muscle pain, headache, or tiredness.

People sometimes faint after medical procedures, including vaccination. Tell your provider if you feel dizzy or have vision changes or ringing in the ears.

As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

5. What if there is a serious problem?

An allergic reaction could occur after the vaccinated person leaves the clinic. If you see signs of a severe allergic reaction (hives, swelling of the face and throat, difficulty breathing, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or weakness), call **9-1-1** and get the person to the nearest hospital.

For other signs that concern you, call your health care provider.

Adverse reactions should be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Your health care provider will usually file this report, or you can do it yourself. Visit the VAERS website at www.vaers.hhs.gov or call **1-800-822-7967**. *VAERS is only for reporting reactions, and VAERS staff members do not give medical advice.*

6. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program

The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) is a federal program that was created to compensate people who may have been injured by certain vaccines. Claims regarding alleged injury or death due to vaccination have a time limit for filing, which may be as short as two years. Visit the VICP website at www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation or call **1-800-338-2382** to learn about the program and about filing a claim.

7. How can I learn more?

- Ask your health care provider.
- Call your local or state health department.
- Visit the website of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for vaccine package inserts and additional information at www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/vaccines.
- Contact the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):
 - Call **1-800-232-4636 (1-800-CDC-INFO)** or
 - Visit CDC's website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines.

