

2019 High School Vaccination Program

Attention Parents/Guardians:

The Alachua County Health Department, in cooperation with the Alachua County School Board, will again be offering several vaccinations to high school students, 16 years of age or older. This is an excellent opportunity to protect your child from several different, and serious, infections and diseases. Vaccine options include Meningococcal B (MenB), Human Papillomavirus (HPV), Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY), and Hepatitis A (HepA) vaccinations. A vaccine information sheet is attached for each of the vaccinations offered.

Meningococcal disease is serious and can be fatal. It causes meningitis and/or blood infection in hundreds of people each year in the U.S. The disease has a 30-40% rate of either death or serious complications such as brain damage and/or amputations, despite timely medical treatment. **The best way to prevent meningococcal disease is vaccination. To be fully protected, two vaccines are needed – one vaccine for meningococcal disease type B (Men B) and one vaccine for meningococcal types A, C, W, and Y.** Your child may have received the vaccine that covers type A, C, W, and Y at age 11 with a booster at age 16. There is now a vaccine to protect against Men B, which is responsible for nearly half of all meningococcal infections. Meningococcal disease can be spread by common behaviors, such as living in close quarters, sharing utensils, kissing, etc... To learn more, visit www.avnee.org. All adolescents age 16-23 are in a higher risk group. Additionally, **Meningococcal vaccination is required and/or recommended for most college admissions.**

PLEASE NOTE: If you check yes on the consent form, your child can be vaccinated without you present. Uncooperative or combative students will not be vaccinated. You will be notified if you authorized your child's vaccination and your child did not get vaccinated at the school-located vaccination clinic.

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All students will be offered the MenB and other vaccines at **NO COST TO THEIR FAMILIES!** However, if your child has health insurance, we are required to collect that information and bill the company for the vaccine. There will be no co-pay or deductible due. Children without insurance will receive the vaccine for free through the Vaccines for Children program. Your child's health insurance status will stay confidential.

Take advantage of this program by:

- **Reading** the Vaccine Information Statements and the Notice of Privacy Practices
AND
- **Filling out** the attached consent form and returning it to your child's school, e-mailing it to SLIV@flhealth.gov, or faxing it to 352-334-7947. (Please note that e-mailing may not be a secure method of communication)

Consent Form is due December 14th, 2018.

Clinics will begin in January; booster shots (if required) will be given in Feb or March. Your school will let you know when your child will be receiving the vaccinations. Staff will review your child's form to determine if s/he can receive the shots. You will be contacted if, for any reason, your child is ineligible to receive any of your selected vaccinations.

VACCINATING CHILDREN CAN PROTECT THEM FROM SERIOUS DISEASES.

- The MenB and MenACWY vaccine protects against meningitis (serious infection of the lining of brain and spinal cord).
- The HepA vaccine protects against a serious liver disease.
- The HPV vaccine protects against several types of cancer in boys and girls.

Please, complete the consent form even if you do not want your child to participate!

For more information, visit our website at www.avnee.org or contact the Health Department at (352) 334-7916.

