

Attention Senior Parents!!!!

Date: August 2014

Dear Parents:

Bowling Green School is partnering with the Pike County Health Department to offer a Meningococcal vaccination clinic at your child's school the last week in August. This vaccine is being offered **FREE** during this mass vaccination event.

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness. It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2 through 18 years old in the United States. Meningitis is an infection of the covering of the brain and the spinal cord. Meningococcal disease also causes blood infections.

About 1,000 – 1,200 people get meningococcal disease each year in the U.S. Even when they are treated with antibiotics, 10-15% of these people die. Of those who live, another 11%-19% lose their arms or legs, have problems with their nervous systems, become deaf or mentally retarded, or suffer seizures or strokes.

Anyone can get meningococcal disease. But it is most common in infants less than one year of age and people 16-21 years. Children with certain medical conditions, such as lack of a spleen, have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease. **College freshmen living in dorms are also at increased risk.** Meningococcal infections can be treated with drugs such as penicillin. Still, many people who get the disease die from it, and many others are affected for life. This is why preventing the disease through use of meningococcal vaccine is important for people at highest risk.

Routine Vaccination Two doses of MCV4 are recommended for adolescents 11 through 18 years of age: the first dose at 11 or 12 years of age, with a booster dose at age 16. If the first dose (or series) is given between 13 and 15 years of age, the booster should be given between 16 and 18. If the first dose (or series) is given after the 16th birthday, a booster is not needed.

If you are interested in your child receiving a Meningococcal vaccine, please complete the health insurance status, **sign the consent,** and send form along with payment payable to Pike County Health Department if applicable to Bowling Green School Office **by August 22, 2014.**

A Vaccine Information Statement for Meningococcal vaccine can be found on the school website or you may go to cdc.gov/vaccines. We encourage parents to review this information

If you have additional questions about the program, please call the school nurse at (573) 324-2181 or Rhonda Stumbaugh, RN with Pike County Health Department at (573) 324-2111

Screening for Meningococcal vaccine:

Check insurance status for your child:

- Child is on Medicaid
- Child has no health insurance or is underinsured
- Child has insurance

This form must be signed by parent or guardian to verify eligibility and/or signify consent to receive the indicated vaccine(s).

I have been given information on the Vaccine Information Statement and have read, or had explained to me, the information for the indicated vaccine and I understand the benefits and risks of the vaccine for which I have signed.

Child's Full Name (please print): _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

Signature of parent or guardian

Date