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November 9, 2020

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In partnership with our school district, the Houston County Health Department is offering the meningococcal vaccine to high school students who will be 16 or older. This vaccine will be offered at school during the annual flu clinic. Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness that affects the brain and the spinal cord.

To help protect your child and others from meningitis, Georgia law requires students be vaccinated against this disease. Effective July 1, 2021, all students 16 years of age and older who are entering the 11th grade must have received one meningococcal booster vaccine (MCV4), unless their first dose was administered on or after their 16th birthday.

Before starting the 2021-2022 school year, all students entering or transferring into 11th grade will need proof of the MCV4. Getting the meningococcal vaccine now will not only help protect your child against the ongoing threat of meningitis, but also meet the new enrollment requirements.

Please complete the Consent for Meningitis Vaccination of Student and School Based Influenza Vaccine Consent Form and return the forms to your school's Health Tech. You may complete one or both forms, as appropriate. To receive the meningococcal vaccine, your student's insurance coverage must be provided with the consent forms. The immunization record of all students will be reviewed prior to giving the injection.

If you have questions, please visit the Georgia Department of Public Health website at: <https://dph.georgia.gov/schoolvaccines>. You may also call your student's school and speak with the Health Tech. Thank you for everything you do to help everyone in our school family stay healthy.

Sincerely,

Dana Rollins, RN MSN
Coordinator of Health Related Services