

**January 2010**

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

Indiana law requires each year that parents/guardians and students be informed “about meningococcal disease and its vaccine” (IC 20-30-5-18)

Meningococcal disease is a dangerous disease that can strike children and youth. The disease can progress rapidly and within hours of the first symptoms, may result in death or permanent disability including loss of hearing, brain damage, and limb amputations.

Symptoms of meningococcal disease often resemble the flu and can include a fever, headache, nausea, and stiff neck, making the disease difficult to diagnose. The bacteria that cause meningococcal diseases are transmitted through air droplets and by direct contact with an infected person. Fortunately there is an immunization available and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends routine meningococcal immunizations at 11 to 12 years old. For teenagers, immunization is recommended at high school entry and incoming college freshman.

**Effective 2010-2011 school year all 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students will be required to have 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4)**

Resources to obtain information about meningococcal disease in addition to your local physician/health care provider and local health department include the following websites:

- The Indiana State Department of Health  
<http://www.in.gov/isdh/healthinfo/meningococcal%20disease.htm>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
[http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/mening/mening\\_fs.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/mening/mening_fs.htm)

Please contact your health care provider for specific instructions regarding your child.

Thank you,

Brenda Finicle, R.N.  
Oak Hill United School Corporation  
School Nurse