



## Required Meningitis Vaccine

Dear 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Academy Students' Parent/Guardian:

As we begin to prepare for the start of the 2019/2020 school year it is important to make sure that your student is up to date on his/her required immunizations. As a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student in Indiana, your student is required to have a second dose of the meningococcal vaccine unless they received the first dose after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. This second dose must be administered on or after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. **(If you are receiving this letter it means that I have checked your students' record and they did not receive the first dose after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and will in fact need a second meningitis vaccine)**

Meningococcal vaccines help protect against the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease. These infections don't happen very often, but can be very dangerous when they do. Meningococcal disease refers to any illness that is caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria. The two most severe and common illnesses caused by these bacteria include infections of the fluid and lining around the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) and bloodstream infections (bacteremia or septicemia) – CDC 2015

For more information on the meningococcal vaccine you can visit the following site <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/who/teens/vaccines/mening.html#why> If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Health Office nurse.

Sincerely,

Molly St. Clair RN