

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Iowa Department of Public Health, now Iowa Department of Health and Human Services, made changes to the Iowa Immunization Law which began during the 2017-18 school year. This change requires that all students entering 12th grade show proof of receiving 2 doses of the meningococcal vaccine.

Meningococcal disease is a life threatening illness that is caused by bacteria that infects the brain, blood, and spinal cord. It easily spreads in crowded settings and typically affects older teens and young adults. The rationale for getting this vaccination series done by 12th grade is to protect students as they move into college or independent living arrangements.

All students entering 12th grade must have proof of having the Meningococcal vaccine **before school starts in August**, unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption. If your student received immunizations outside of Iowa (will not be listed in IRIS), then a copy of those immunization records will need to be sent to the school. See the guidance on the Iowa Immunization law: <https://hhs.iowa.gov/media/2836/download?inline=>

There will be **no** grace/extension period for the implementation of this requirement.

Now is a great time for your incoming 12th grader to receive this immunization and beat the back-to-school rush by contacting your healthcare provider now. Cresco Medical Clinic is accepting calls and making appointments at this time. You may contact them at 563-547-2022. You may also choose to have a sports physical done for your student over the summer, and that would also be an ideal time to ask for this immunization.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 563-547-2762 or kmartin@howard-winn.k12.ia.us .

Thank you for your time and attention to this important requirement.

*Karin Martin-Hiner, BSN-RN
Crestwood High School Nurse*