



FAQs for Schools

What is the new requirement for seventh graders?

1. A child enrolling in seventh (7th) grade in a Nevada public or private school after June 30th, 2017 must receive an immunization against Neisseria meningitidis (meningitis) in the form of a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4). The child must receive at least one dose of MCV4 on or after age 10 years.
2. This new requirement does not apply to students enrolled in a Nevada public or private school before July 1st, 2009.

Which of the meningococcal vaccines are mandated and what are the parameters for receiving the vaccine (ie: how early can kids get it and when is the booster required)?

As long as the students are protected by one of the quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate (MCV4 or MenACWY) vaccines, the state isn't mandating a specific brand of vaccine. Conjugate vaccines include: Menactra and Menveo. In order to be compliant, students must have received the vaccine on or after their 10th birthday.

The booster dose is not required at this point, but will likely be required when the 2017-2018 cohort of 7th grade students reaches 12th grade.

Will we be requiring students that are past 7th grade to get the vaccine or will they be grandfathered in?

In the 2017-2018 school year students past 7th grade will be grandfathered in. HOWEVER, students that are entering the school district for the first time between 8th-12th grade will be required to have the quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccine.

Will students in grades 8-12 who enter the district be required to get the vaccination? Will students who transfer schools within a district be subject to this requirement?

Yes, new students enrolling in grades 8-12 who enter the district will be required to demonstrate they have received the MCV4 vaccine before starting school. Any transferring student in 7th grade or above will be required to show that they have received the MCV4 vaccine even if they are transferring from another Nevada school district.

Is this a law? It says it's an "administrative regulation".

An administrative regulation is still Nevada law, because Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) inform the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC).

When should we be sending information out to parents regarding getting the vaccine for their soon to be seventh graders? We usually try and send out the Tdap notification to these parents as early as we can so if we could do the notifications together that might be easier.

Please distribute information to parents and other stakeholders as soon as possible about the new meningococcal vaccine requirement! We are currently finalizing a toolkit for schools with information on the new requirement.

Are we able to hold school-based clinics for vaccine administration?

Depending on funding! We have a few clinics tentatively planned for rural areas and will conduct our regular Back to School events. The Nevada State Immunization Program has indicated that some state-funded vaccine may be available to conduct larger, one-time back-to-school clinics this summer.

Is the MCV4 vaccine covered by insurance, and do we know what the cost will be for families without insurance?

All insurances compliant with the Affordable Care Act should provide the MCV4 vaccine free of charge. Free or low-cost vaccine can be found through the Vaccines for Children program (VFCnevada.org) for students who are uninsured, underinsured, Medicaid-eligible, American Indian, or Alaskan Native.

Do we foresee any problems with availability of the vaccine with the requirement starting this summer?

We are working with providers and pharmaceutical companies to prepare them for the increased demand for meningococcal vaccine this upcoming back-to-school season. We hope that by getting the word out about the new requirement this spring, families may seek out Tdap and MCV4 before the traditional back to school rush.

The Nevada State Immunization Program is encouraging their enrolled clinics to be staffed adequately and to order enough MCV4 vaccine, both private and VFC stocks, before the back to school rush.

Is there a second dose required for students after the first?

The booster is not currently required.

There are multiple formulations of the vaccine; will we be requiring a specific one?

As long as the students are protected by one of the quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccines, the state isn't mandating a specific vaccine brand. Conjugate vaccines include: Menactra and Menveo.

Which schools are included in the new University freshmen requirement?

Only freshmen under age 23 years entering the University of Nevada- Reno (UNR) or the University of Nevada- Las Vegas (UNLV) are required by Nevada Revised Statute to receive the MCV4 vaccine before starting school. Many other colleges and universities throughout the country require MCV4 as part of their admissions policy.

If a student is over age 16 years, will they need to show they have received two doses of MCV4?

7th – 12th Grades: At this time, students in 7th grade or above will only have to show one (1) dose of MCV4 to be compliant with the regulation.

University: Entering freshman who are 23 years and younger must show at least one (1) dose of MCV4, administered on or after age 16 years, to be compliant (e.g., entering freshman may have two (2) doses on their record, but one must have been administered at age 16 years or older).

How will vaccine exemptions be dealt with? Will titers be accepted as an exemption?

In Nevada, religious exemptions are accepted. Each school district needs to create their own form. Medical exemptions must be signed by a licensed physician according to NV law.

No, titers will not be accepted.

Are 7th graders who entered the district as preschoolers before July 1st 2009 exempt from this requirement?

No, that is too difficult for school nurses and administrative assistants to track.

Why is the University requirement start date September 1st, after school has started?

To allow the Admissions departments at each school to have a short grace period for ensuring all applicable entering freshman are compliant with all University immunization requirements.

RESOURCES

National Meningitis Association: <http://www.nmaus.org/>

Immunization Action Coalition: <http://immunize.org/meningococcal/>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/bacterial.html>

Immunize Nevada: https://www.immunizenevada.org/mening_info