



# Spooner Area School District

801 County Highway A · Spooner, WI 54801 · 715-635-2171 · [www.spooner.k12.wi.us](http://www.spooner.k12.wi.us)

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Dear Parent or Guardian:

As school nurse at Spooner Area School District I am writing to inform you about the dangers of meningococcal disease, commonly known as bacterial meningitis, which is rare but can be fatal. There is a vaccine for this disease.

Meningococcal bacteria can potentially be transmitted through close contact with an infected person through direct contact with respiratory and/or oral secretions from an infected person (for example, through sharing drinking containers or kissing). Teenagers and college students are at increased risk for meningococcal disease compared to the general population, accounting for nearly 30 percent of all U.S. cases every year. Meningococcal disease can be hard to identify at first, because early symptoms like high fever, severe headache, nausea, vomiting and stiff neck, are similar to those of common viral illnesses. The disease can quickly result in death or permanent disability within 48 hours of initial symptoms.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other leading medical organizations recommends that all 11-12 years olds should be vaccinated with meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4). A second, booster shot is recommended for teens at age 16 to continue providing protection when their risk for meningococcal disease is highest.

For more information about meningococcal disease and immunization, please feel free to contact me directly at 715-625-2171 x2153 or visit the following websites to learn more about meningococcal disease, vaccine information, and public health resources visit the following web sites.

<https://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html>

Sincerely,

Sarah Hamilton, BSN, RN  
Spooner Area School District Nurse