

# Indiana School for the Deaf

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Health Center  
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Dear Parents/Guardians of ISD students,

For the 2007-2008 School year:

Indiana law requires that each year parents/guardians be informed about Meningococcal disease and its vaccine. The law IC 20-30-5-18 (effective 7/1/2005) Section 18 is as follows:

- 1) The chief administrative officer of each:
  - a) Public school (including charter schools as defined in IC 20-24-1-4); and
  - b) Nonpublic school;shall ensure that information concerning Meningococcal disease and its vaccines is provided to students and parents or guardians of students at the beginning of each school year.
- 2) Information provided under subsection (1) must indicate information concerning the:
  - a) Causes
  - b) Symptoms
  - c) Spreadof Meningococcal disease and the places where parents and guardians of students may obtain additional information and vaccinations for their children.
- 3) The chief administrative officers and the department shall, in consultation with the state department of health or any other appropriate entity, develop materials to be made available to schools in providing the information described in this section.
- 4) The department shall enforce this section.

Meningococcal disease is a dangerous disease that can strike children and youth. It can proceed 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 often resemble the flu and can include fever, headache, nausea, and stiff neck. The bacteria that causes Meningococcal disease are spread by air droplets and direct contact with an infected person. There is a vaccine available. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend routine Meningococcal immunizations at 11 or 12 years of age. For teenagers, immunization is recommended at school entry and to incoming college freshman.

Please contact your healthcare provider for specific instructions regarding your child. If you have any questions, please call the ISD Health Center.

Sincerely,

Debra M. Robarge, RN  
Health Center Director