

# DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

*The Standard of Excellence*

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April 10, 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Effective July 1, 2021, children 16 years of age and older, who are entering the 11<sup>th</sup> grade (including new entrants), must have received one booster dose of the meningococcal conjugate Vaccine (MCV4), unless their initial dose was administered on or after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness that affects the brain and the spinal cord. Meningitis can cause shock, coma and death within hours of the first symptoms.

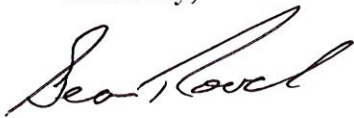
If your teen will be entering the 11<sup>th</sup> grade for the 2022-2023 school year it is **required** that they have at least one booster to help protect them against the ongoing threat of meningitis. Getting MCV4 (meningococcal conjugate vaccine) now will not only help protect your child against the ongoing threat of meningitis, it will also meet the current school entry requirement.

Ask your pediatrician or local health department about other shots your child may need including:

- the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis shot (Tdap or Td booster)
- an annual flu vaccine; and
- the human papillomavirus (HPV) series
- catch-up immunizations, including chickenpox, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) and hepatitis B

If your child does not have health insurance or their health plan won't cover these vaccines, call your local health department. Ask about getting no cost or low-cost vaccines. The phone number for the Cobb Douglas Public Health, Douglas County location, is 770.949.1970. For more information, visit <http://dph.georgia.gov/vaccines-children>

Sincerely,



Sean Roach  
Coordinator of Student Services



Mr. Trent North, Superintendent  
P.O. Box 1077, Douglasville, GA 30133  
11490 Veterans Memorial Highway, Douglasville, GA 30134  
770-651-2000 | dcssga.org