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Dear 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent,

According to the NEW Ohio Department of Health rules, incoming 12<sup>th</sup> graders for the 2016-2017 school year are required to have one or two doses of Meningitis vaccine for entry into 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

The required Meningitis vaccine is MCV4. It protects against four strains of Meningitis (A, C, W, Y). Two doses of the vaccine are required; however, if the first dose was administered on or after the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, a second dose is not required. So if your child has never received this vaccine and is now over 16 years old, one dose would meet this requirement.

Meningitis is spread by contact with someone's infected oral or nasal secretions, i.e. coughing, sneezing, sharing drinks, kissing. Teens are at increased risk for this bacterial infection because of their social behaviors. Symptoms include stiff neck, fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, increased sensitivity to light, and confusion. Meningitis can kill a healthy person in less than 48 hours, and survivors can have serious problems that last the rest of their lives.

**Other optional vaccines for teens include:**

**HPV (Human Papillomavirus) – three dose series protects against HPV disease.** HPV disease is the leading cause of cervical cancer in women and it causes genital warts in both males and females.

**VAR (Chicken Pox/Varicella) – two doses are needed to protect your child,** if they are not already immune from disease. This disease causes fever and rash. In some cases, especially in teens, serious health problems may occur.

**HAV (Hepatitis A) – two doses protect against Hepatitis A disease.** Hepatitis A causes fever, body aches, fever, yellowing of skin and eyes, severe stomach pain, and diarrhea.

**Meningitis B – two or three dose series** protects against one additional strain (B) or Meningitis. This vaccine is new this year and although it is recommended, it is not the required Meningitis vaccine for school.

August is typically a busy time as parents are getting their child up to date on their vaccinations before the school year. Please consider scheduling an appointment early in the summer to avoid the back-to-school rush. The health department has immunization clinics every Tuesday from 9:00 – 11:30 AM and 1:00 – 4:00 PM with extended hours until 6:00 PM on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 9:30 – 11:45 AM.

*If your child has medical insurance, please bring a copy of their card.*

If you have any questions about these or any other vaccines or to schedule an appointment, please call the health department at 419-523-5608.

Sincerely,  
Putnam County Health Department