



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

June 15, 2018

John White  
State Superintendent of Education  
Louisiana Department of Education  
1201 North Third Street  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5234

Dear Superintendent White,

Effective July 1, 2019, Louisiana law will require students entering 11<sup>th</sup> grade, or 16 years of age and entering any grade, to provide satisfactory evidence of current immunization meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV) against meningococcal disease as a condition of school entry. This requirement expands on the current requirement for students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or that are 11 years of age.

This law originated from the passage House Bill No. 176, from the 2018 Regular Session by Representative Leger, which mandates this school entry requirement. Revised Statute 17:170 E continues to allow an exemption from this school entry requirement for medical reasons or written dissent.

Meningococcal vaccination is recommended for children at 11 and 16 years of age on the 2018-2019 Louisiana Immunization Schedule. The new requirement for two doses of the MCV will be added to the Schedule's section titled Louisiana State Law. Note that this requirement does not apply to the other meningitis vaccine, MenB.

This legislation requires the Louisiana Department of Education to notify each city, parish and other local school board, the governing authority of each nonpublic school system and the parent or legal guardian of students participating in an approved home study program.

The Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Public Health staff are available for further discussion of this legislative mandate.

Sincerely,

  
Rebekah E. Gee, MD/MPH  
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health