

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Iowa Department of Public Health requires that all students entering 12th grade have the Meningococcal vaccine before school starts this fall.

Students entering 12th grade, will need proof of two doses of meningococcal vaccine; or one dose if received when the student was 16 years of age or older.

Meningococcal disease is a life threatening illness that is caused by bacteria that infects the brain, blood, and spinal cord. It easily spreads in crowded settings and typically affects older teens and young adults.

All students entering 12th grade must provide proof of having the Meningococcal vaccine **before school starts in August**, unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption. There will be no grace/extension period for the implementation of this requirement. **Therefore your child will not be allowed to start the school year unless I have received proof of this immunization.**

Now is a great time for your child to receive these immunization requirements and beat the back-to-school rush by making an appointment for your incoming 12th grader.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [nicki.schultz@chariton.k12.ia.us](mailto:nicki.schultz@chariton.k12.ia.us).

Thank you for your time and attention to this requirement.

Sincerely,

Nicki Schultz, RN  
School Nurse  
Chariton Community School District