



McLean County
Health Department
Partners in Prevention

NEWS



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Health Department Holding Walk-In Clinic for Students Needing Meningitis Vaccination *Clinic for McLean County students entering either the 6th or 12th grades*

BLOOMINGTON – The McLean County Health Department will be offering incoming 6th and 12th grade Mclean County students another opportunity to get their meningitis vaccination at a special walk-in clinic scheduled for next week. Only meningitis vaccinations will be given during the clinic, which is scheduled for:

Date: Monday, August 17th
Time: 3 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.
Location: McLean County Health Department, Immunization Clinic
200 West Front Street
Bloomington, Illinois

Students needing to get the meningitis vaccination must:

1. be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, if under the age of 18;
2. bring a copy of their immunization record;
3. be feeling well, with no signs of fever in the previous 24 hours; and,
4. be a resident of McLean County.

The meningococcal conjugate (meningitis) vaccine is a new immunization requirement for the 2015/2016 school year that affects all students entering either the sixth or twelfth grades.

Incoming sixth grade students will be required to show proof of having received one dose of the meningococcal conjugate (meningitis) vaccine. Students entering the twelfth grade will need to show proof of receiving two doses of the meningitis vaccine, unless the first dose was administered after 16 years of age. If a student is already 16 when receiving the first dose, then only one dose is required. This vaccination protects against a severe form of bacterial meningitis as well as other illnesses caused by this bacterium.

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According to Sue Albee Grant, Community Health Services Supervisor, “more people waited until just before the start of school to get their immunizations this year than anticipated -- especially those needing the newly required meningitis vaccination – which left us no leeway when we had to reorder.”

Grant adds, “To compound the situation, several other central Illinois providers ran into the same situation we did and also placed reorders: so the whole process of getting vaccine to us took just a few days longer than usual. We are just happy to have gotten the vaccine in so that kids can get into school fully immunized.”

The McLean County Health Department accepts both private and public health insurance, as well as those without health insurance or wishing to pay out-of-pocket. Most private health insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program helps provide vaccines to children whose parents or guardians income qualify for the state funded vaccine.

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