



MEDIA ADVISORY



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Inaccurate Information about the Walk-In Clinic for Meningitis Vaccinations Circulating

The McLean County Health Department, announced yesterday that a walk-in clinic for McLean County students needing a meningitis vaccination to meet sixth grade or twelfth grade back-to-school immunization requirements will be held Monday, August 17th from 3:00 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Because we have been made aware of circulating inaccuracies regarding the clinic times and cost information, the details are being reiterated below.

What: Walk-In Clinic for Meningitis Vaccinations for Incoming 6th and 12th grade students in McLean County

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

Method of Payment: Private insurance, medical card, or out-of-pocket payment. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program helps provide vaccines to children whose parents or guardians income qualify for the state funded vaccine.

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. While private and public insurance may cover the cost of the vaccine, it is inaccurate to say the vaccines are therefore free; those receiving the vaccine may have little to no out-of-pocket expense.

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.

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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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