

North Putnam Community School Corporation

School Health and Nursing Services

Bainbridge Elem. School
522-6233

Roachdale Elem. School
522-1732

North Putnam Middle School
522-2900

North Putnam High School
522-6282

Marilynn Unger, RN
NPCSC School Nurse

Dear Parent, Guardians and Students,

Indiana State Law IC 20-30-5-18 requires that school systems provide important information to parents and guardians of all students about meningitis and the vaccines available to prevent one type of this serious illness at the beginning of each school year.

One type of meningitis is caused by a bacteria called *Neisseria meningitides*. Infections caused by this bacteria are serious, and may lead to death. Symptoms of an infection with *Neisseria meningitides* may include high fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, confusion and a rash. This disease can become severe very quickly and often leads to deafness, mental retardation, loss of arms or legs, and even death. It can be spread through the air or by direct contact with saliva from another person with the disease.

There is a vaccine (Menactra) that can prevent most cases of meningitis caused by this bacteria in people over the age of 2. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends vaccination against this disease for all children and adolescents 11-18 years of age. Children ages 2-10 who have sickle cell anemia or problems with their immune systems should also receive this vaccine.

Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, one dose of Menactra (MCV4) will be required for students in grades 6-12. This is a new legal requirement (IC 20-34-4-2 & IC 4-22-2). All students entering grades 6-12 will need to have a record of this immunization on file. The school system will need a signed written statement from a medical provider as proof of the vaccination or proof of immunization will need to be in the state immunization registry (CHIRP). Check with your doctor to see if your child's record is available in the state immunization registry (CHIRP).

The Putnam County Department of Health (653-5210) as well as most private healthcare providers offer this vaccine. Please do not wait until August to obtain the vaccination for your child as appointments are usually booked in August. Once the vaccination has been obtained, you can send verification to the school nurse and she will enter that information into the school system's health data base as verification that your child's immunizations are up-to-date and meet ISDH/IDOE immunization requirements.

Additional information about meningococcal disease can be found at:

The Indiana State Department of Health (<http://www.in.gov.isdh/22121/htm>).

The Indiana Department of Education School Health Student Services (<http://www.doe.in.gov/sservices/sn.htm>)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/default.htm>).

Please talk with your child's health care provider about meningococcal disease and vaccination.

Yours in Good Health,

Marilynn Unger, RN, School Nurse

North Putnam Community School Corporation

School Health and Nursing Services

Bainbridge Elem. School
522-6233

Roachdale Elem. School
522-1732

North Putnam Middle School
522-2900

North Putnam High School
522-6282

Marilynn Unger, RN
NPCSC School Nurse

Dear Parent, Guardians and Students,

The Indiana State Department of Health and the Indiana Department of Education have asked that school systems provide important information to parents and guardians of students about pertussis (whooping cough) and the vaccines available to prevent this serious illness.

Pertussis is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by the bacterium *Bordetella pertussis*. Pertussis is spread by infectious airborne droplets created when a person who is infected coughs or sneezes. Infants and young children are typically vaccinated against pertussis, but the vaccine loses effectiveness as children get older and vaccinated children can become infected.

Pertussis causes severe coughing fits. During the fits, the affected person may be short of breath and appear distressed. The coughing fit may be followed by vomiting and exhaustion. Young infants are at highest risk for developing complications like pneumonia and seizures from the disease.

Adolescents and adults who have been previously vaccinated may have a milder case of the disease, but they can still spread pertussis to others. The United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a routine pertussis booster for all 11-12 year old children and for anyone older who did not have a booster at 11-12 years of age. The pertussis booster (Tdap) is combined with tetanus toxoid and takes the place of one tetanus booster shot. The Tdap vaccine can be given as soon as one year after a regular tetanus booster.

Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, the Tdap vaccine will be required for all students in grades 6-12. All students entering grades 6-12 will need to have a record of this immunization on file with the immunization being given on or after the child's 10th birthday. The school system will need a signed written statement from a medical provider as proof of the vaccination or proof of immunization will need to be in the state immunization registry (CHIRP).

The Putnam County Department of Health (653-5210) as well as most private healthcare providers offer this vaccine. Please talk to your child's healthcare provider about the Tdap vaccine and do not wait until August to obtain the vaccination for your child as appointments are usually booked in August. Once the vaccination is obtained, you can send verification to the school nurse and she will enter that information into the school system's health data base as verification that your child's immunizations are up-to-date and meet ISDH/IDOE immunization requirements.

Additional resources for families to obtain information about pertussis disease include the following websites:

The Indiana State Department of Health (<http://www.in.gov/isdh/22191.htm>)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/pertussis/default.htm>)

Please talk with your child's healthcare provider about pertussis disease and vaccination.

Yours in Good Health,

Marilynn Unger, RN, School Nurse

North Putnam Community School Corporation

School Health and Nursing Services

Bainbridge Elem. School
522-6233

Roachdale Elem. School
522-1732

North Putnam Middle School
522-2900

North Putnam High School
522-6282

Marilynn Unger, RN
NPCSC School Nurse

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

During the 2009 legislative session, IC 20-34-4-2 was revised, requiring the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) to “adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to require school age children to receive additional immunizations against the following: Meningitis, Varicella, and Pertussis (whooping cough). The additional immunizations required under the rules shall include an immunization booster if considered appropriate by the state department.”

Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, all kindergarten and first grade students as well as students in grades 6-12 will be required to have 2 doses of varicella vaccine, given on or after the first birthday, and separated by age appropriate intervals as defined by the CDC, or a history of chicken pox disease.

The Putnam County Department of Health offers this vaccine (653-5210) as well as most private healthcare providers. Please do not wait until August to obtain the vaccination as appointments are usually booked in August. Once the vaccination is obtained, you may send verification to the school nurse and she will enter the information into the health data base at your child’s school as verification that your child’s immunizations are up-to-date and meet ISDH/IDOE immunization requirements.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact your child’s school nurse.

Sincerely,

Marilynn Unger, RN
NPCSC School Nurse