



April 14, 2016

**Office of the Chancellor**

**52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007**

**212 374 0200** Tel  
**212 374 5588** Fax

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are writing to let you know about a change to the immunization requirements for school-age children. Beginning in September 2016, all students in seventh and twelfth grades—and District 75 students who are 12 years old and 16 to 17 years old—will be required to be vaccinated for meningitis. The vaccine is medically known as MenACWY (quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine) and was previously known as MCV4 (brand names Menactra and Menveo). Vaccination with MenACWY has been routinely recommended for children at 11 and 16 years of age, and now it is required for school.

The MenACWY vaccine helps protect against meningococcal disease, an infection caused by *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria. Meningococcal disease—also known as meningitis—can spread from person to person. Teens and young adults are at increased risk. The disease can develop very quickly and even with treatment, infections can be very serious and lead to other health problems or death. The meningococcal vaccine is the best way to protect teens from getting meningococcal disease.

Protect your child; have him or her vaccinated before the beginning of the next school year. Also, make sure your child is up-to-date on all vaccines.

Please plan ahead and talk to your pediatrician about your child and vaccines. For more information, refer to the enclosed MenACWY Vaccine Information Statement or visit [cdc.gov/vaccines/](http://cdc.gov/vaccines/).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Carmen Fariña'.

Carmen Fariña  
Chancellor  
Department of Education

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mary T. Bassett'.

Mary T. Bassett, MD, MPH  
Commissioner  
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene