



# Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

## Dickinson County

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### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Health Department Schedules Additional Immunization Clinics for College Students

Kingsford, Michigan, July 24, 2008 – Due to the increase in demand for immunizations for college students, the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department has added additional immunization clinics on Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Please call (906) 774-1868 to schedule an appointment or for more information.

Vaccine-preventable diseases are still seen in Michigan, and may cause disability or death. Immunization is one of our most cost-effective measures to protect children from these diseases.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends routine vaccination with the following vaccines for the age groups described below.

### **Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV4) – One dose**

- Adolescents 11-18 years old.
- College freshmen that live in dormitories.
- Adults 19 – 55 years, such as those with
  - Damaged or removed spleen
  - HIV
  - Terminal complement component deficiency
  - Plans to travel/live in parts of the world where this disease is common, such as parts of Africa
  - Possible exposure to meningitis (Not serogroup B)

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Meningococcal disease is caused by bacteria that infect the bloodstream and the linings of the brain and spinal cord, causing serious illness. Every year in the United States, 1,400 to 2,800 people get meningococcal disease. Ten to 14 percent of people with meningococcal disease die, and 11-19 percent of survivors have permanent disabilities (such as mental retardation, hearing loss, and loss of limbs). The disease often begins with symptoms that can be mistaken for common illnesses, such as the flu. Meningococcal disease is particularly dangerous because it progresses rapidly and can kill within hours.

The vaccine is highly effective. However, it does not protect people against meningococcal disease caused by “type B” bacteria. This type of bacteria causes one-third of meningococcal cases. More than half of the cases among infants aged <1 year are caused by “type B,” for which no vaccine is available in the United States. The new meningococcal vaccine was licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use in people 11-55 years of age. It is manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur and is marketed as Menactra™.

#### **Human Papillomavirus virus vaccine (HPV4) – 3 doses**

- Adolescent females 11-12 years old.
- Adolescent females ages 13-18 years of age who have not received the vaccine. It may be given to females as young as 9 years of age.
- The vaccine is also recommended for young women 19-26 years of age.

The Human Papillomavirus virus is the leading cause of cervical cancer in women. Gardasil®, manufactured by Merck, is the first vaccine developed to prevent cervical cancer, precancerous genital lesions and genital warts due to HPV. It has been tested in thousands of women around the world and has been found to be safe and effective in providing protection against the two types of HPV that cause most cervical cancers.

#### **Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap) – Booster dose**

- Adolescents 11-18 years old.
- Adolescents who have already gotten a booster dose of Td are encouraged to get a dose of Tdap as well, for protection against Pertussis. Waiting at least 5 years between Td and Tdap is encouraged, but not required.
- Adolescents who did not get all their scheduled doses of DTaP or DTP as children should complete the series using a combination of Td and Tdap.

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- Adults 19 – 64
  - Should substitute Tdap for one booster dose of Td. Td should be used for later booster doses
  - Who have close contact with an infant younger than 12 months of age should get a dose of Tdap. Waiting at least 2 years since the last dose of Td is suggested, but not required.
  - Healthcare workers who have direct patient contact in hospitals or clinics should get a dose of Tdap. Waiting at least 2 years since the last dose of Td is suggested, but not required.

Tdap was licensed in 2005. It is the first vaccine for adolescents and adults that protects against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis disease. Pertussis (Whooping Cough) causes severe coughing spells, vomiting, and disturbed sleep. It can lead to weight loss, incontinence, rib fractures and passing out from violent coughing, pneumonia, and hospitalization due to complications.

In 2004 there were more than 25,000 cases of Pertussis in the U.S. More than 8,000 of these cases were among adolescents and more than 7,000 were among adults. Up to 2 in 100 adolescents and 5 in 100 adults with Pertussis are hospitalized or have complications.

#### **Hepatitis A - 2 doses**

- Hepatitis A vaccine is now available to all children ages 1 year through 18 years of age.

Hepatitis A is a serious liver disease caused hepatitis A virus (HAV). HAV is found in the stool of persons with hepatitis A and is usually spread by close personal contact and sometimes by eating food or drinking water containing HAV.

Hepatitis A can cause “flu-like” illness with jaundice (yellow skin or eyes), and severe stomach pains and diarrhea. People infected often have to be hospitalized.

#### **Varicella - 2 doses**

- All children who have not had the chickenpox (varicella) disease should receive 2 doses of varicella vaccine.

This is a change in the recommendations that children under 13 receive 1 dose of varicella vaccine. All children should receive 2 doses of vaccine, first dose at 12-15 months of age and the second dose 4-6 years of age. Children who received one dose should receive a second catch up dose.

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For the most current recommended guidelines for childhood and adult immunizations visit the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Immunization Division website at [http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942\\_4911\\_4914---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2942_4911_4914---,00.html) or the Centers for Disease (CDC) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/default.htm> .

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