

# PORTAGE COUNTY COMBINED GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT

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Joseph J. Diorio, MPH, MS, RS  
Health Commissioner

Web: [www.co.portage.oh.us/dept/healthdepartment](http://www.co.portage.oh.us/dept/healthdepartment)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The Portage County Health Department would like to inform you of new vaccine requirements that might affect your child.

## Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year:

**All students entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade** will be required to have one dose of meningococcal vaccine (also known as MCV4, Menveo or Menactra) in addition to one dose of Tdap (Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis).

**All students entering the 12<sup>th</sup> grade** will be required to have a 2nd dose of meningococcal vaccine prior to entry. If the first dose of MCV4 was administered on or after the 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, a second dose is not required.

The reason behind the new requirement is because meningococcal disease can spread from person to person. The bacteria that cause this infection can spread when people have close or lengthy contact with someone's saliva, like through kissing or coughing. Teens and young adults are at increased risk for meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal disease can become very serious, very quickly. The meningococcal vaccine is the best way to protect teens from getting meningococcal disease.

You may obtain the Tdap and Meningococcal vaccine from your private physician or other community providers. These vaccines are also available from the Portage County Health Department located at 705 Oakwood Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Ravenna. Childhood immunization clinic hours are every Wednesday, 8:00-noon. No appointment necessary. Please bring shot records.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at 330-296-9919 ext. 127.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sherry Halas".

Sherry Halas, RN, BSN  
Immunization Grant Coordinator  
Portage County Health Department  
705 Oakwood Street, Suite 208  
Ravenna, OH 44266