## American Academy of Pediatrics



Georgia Chapter

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Executive Director Richard W. Ward, CAE June 28, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

The Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Immunization Program for the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) would like to alert you to a change in school immunization requirements. Effective July 1, 2020, children sixteen years of age and older who are attending eleventh grade must receive a booster dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine, unless their initial dose was administered on or after their sixteenth birthday.

We have enclosed a poster to inform and prepare you for this new requirement. The poster is geared toward notifying your office staff and patients that a booster (2<sup>nd</sup> dose) of MCV4 is needed before entry into the 11<sup>th</sup> grade starting the 2020-21 school year. The booster helps protect against meningococcal disease during the late adolescent and young adult years when it is most likely to occur.

Your help is needed to get the word out to the public and fulfill the state requirement, and we appreciate your assistance in notification and administration of the booster. Thank you for your continued partnership in ensuring the health and well-being of the children and adolescents of our state.

Sincerely,

Harry J. Keyserling

Harry Keyserling, MD, Chair Infectious Disease Committee

Sheila Lovett, Director Immunization Program Georgia Department of Public Health

\*Consider having an EPIC® presentation for your office for the most current immunization information. Visit <u>GaEPIC.org</u> for details.