



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

August 8, 2016

Dear Leaders in Higher Education:

With the recent confirmed case of mumps on a Michigan [college campus](#) and a meningococcal meningitis death of a [college-aged resident](#), the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) strongly recommends the review of vaccination requirements at your institution in preparation for the Fall 2016 semester. Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) are not only disruptive in large population settings, they come at a great cost. MDHHS encourages the use of standing orders to improve immunization delivery for your campus populations, particularly for meningococcal vaccination (MenACWY and MenB). The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) has prepared a new toolkit (www.nfid.org/meningitis-toolkit) designed to help increase awareness among the college community about the importance of meningococcal disease prevention.

Furthermore, Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR) data reports that adults aged 18 through 24 years have the lowest flu vaccination rate in the state. A great resource to increase flu vaccinations on your campus is the College & University Flu Vaccination Challenge. For the past two years, MDHHS has partnered with colleges and universities to increase flu vaccination rates by encouraging students to compete against other universities and colleges. Since its inception in 2014, flu vaccination coverage in adults aged 18 through 24 years has increased from 10.1% to 12.2%.

[Enroll](#) in the 2016-2017 College Flu Challenge today. If you have questions, please contact Jalyn Ingalls, Influenza Epidemiologist, at IngallsJ@michigan.gov.

These latest VPD cases combined with the remarkably low vaccination coverage rates in Michigan serve as a reminder of the unique risk factors of the campus environment for the spread of disease: close contact in dorms, classrooms, public transportation, parties, and sporting events. An otherwise healthy student population can become ill with serious infections. We ask that Michigan colleges and universities prepare for all eventualities and continue to examine vaccine requirements that best protect the campus environment for incoming students, visitors, faculty, and staff. While vaccines do offer the best protection against infection, make sure your campus community also has knowledge of symptoms and resources to seek prompt medical treatment if needed. Please refer to the enclosed materials to support the efforts at your institution.

We look forward to working with all of you to protect more communities from serious diseases through vaccination. For questions on available resources or materials, please contact Jackie Chandler, Outreach Coordinator, at ChandlerJ3@michigan.gov or 517-335-8159.

Sincerely,

Eden V. Wells, MD, MPH, FACPM
Chief Medical Executive

Enclosed: ACHA Guidelines - *Recommendations for Institutional Prematriculation Immunizations*
MDHHS Flyer - *Student Immunization Checklist*