

RICE LAKE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Health Services

30 South Wisconsin Avenue

Rice Lake, WI 54868

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Welcome back to Rice Lake Middle School! I hope this letter finds your family enjoying a happy, healthy summer break! As we look toward the new school year, here are some tips to remember to keep everyone healthy, safe and ready to learn for the new school year:

Illness – School is a place for healthy kids! Please continue to assess your child(ren) for signs of illness every day before sending them to school. If your student is too ill to come to school, call the school attendance line to leave a message including a list of symptoms and to excuse them as ill. If your student sees a doctor and is diagnosed with an illness such as COVID 19, strep throat, chicken pox, mono, etc, be sure to provide us with the diagnosis and get a note from the doctor excusing them from school and indicating when your child may return – this helps track “what’s going around” and decreases student concerns with truancy.

Medication

- Medication forms and information are available on our website at the following links:
[Authorization to Administer Medication Form](#)
[Medication Form Instructions](#) [Parent Guidelines for Medication Administration](#)
A new medication form signed by a parent or guardian is required each year - NO EXCEPTIONS. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
- All orders for prescription medication must be signed by a health care provider AND parent. Be sure forms are properly signed before bringing them to school.
- For safety reasons and per school policy, all medications must be brought to school by the parent/guardian, in the original prescription or manufacturer’s bottle and include the student’s name, medication name, dose, time and route of administration.
- **As needed medication:**
 - Over-the-counter pain medication (ibuprofen, 200mg tablets or acetaminophen, 325mg tablets) is available to students in the Middle School health room in case of mild aches and pains (headache, muscle aches, cramps, etc.). If you would like your child to have these medications available to them, please complete a Medication Authorization form.
- **Injuries and restrictions to activity** – if your child is unable to physically participate in any school activity (due to injury, planned surgery, illness, etc) a signed, written note from a health care provider is required. A list of restrictions is also required. If a physician excuses a student from participation, we must also have a physician’s signature to allow return to participation. Students without proper medical excuses are expected to participate in all school activities to the best of their ability.

Immunizations – if your student receives vaccines/immunizations during the school year, please forward a copy of their record to the school so we can keep our records as up-to-date as possible. If we already have the information – no need to send another copy. A list of required immunizations is located on our website.

[Wisconsin State Immunization Requirements](#)
[Immunization Form](#)

- **For 6th grade students only** – Be sure your child has received a Tdap booster prior to the first day of school. This is a requirement of the Wisconsin School Immunization Law. There are fines, legal consequences and possible school exclusion for those not in compliance with laws by the 15th day of school. Here is some other information about immunizations specifically for 6th grade students:

[Meningitis Letter](#)

[Meningitis Fact Sheet](#)

- **Flu Clinic** – We will continue to work with Barron County Public Health to provide this opportunity if it is available. More information to follow!

Chronic Health Conditions (asthma, allergies, epilepsy, diabetes, etc.):

- If your student has had an active school health plan in the past, you should have already received your paperwork for updates for the new school year. If you have not received the paperwork, please contact me – I will get forms to you!
- If you have received your paperwork, please complete it and return it as soon as possible so staff can be trained and ready to care for your student on the first day!
- If your student has developed a new health concern over the summer, please call me so we can create a plan of action for the school year
- If your child's health plan includes giving emergency medication, please deliver a supply of that medication to the school and assure that the medication is not expired.

Dental Clinic – NorthLakes Community Clinic Superior Smiles Program is again offering a preventative school based dental program for all children grades Pre-K through 12th. This program is funded in part by Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile in collaboration with the Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin and the Division of Public Oral Health Program. A dental professional comes to the school to provide dental services at NO CHARGE to you. The program includes:

- Oral health education and dental supplies
- Oral health assessment by a licensed dental professional
- Fluoride varnish applications (2 to 3 per year)
- Dental sealants and sealant replacement where necessary

The treatment your child receives in this program is not meant to be an alternative to regular dental care. It is still strongly recommended that you continue routine care with your family dentist. If you do not have a family dentist for routine dental care including any follow up care recommended by this program, we are committed to helping you find one.

If you would like your child to participate in this program, click this link to register:

<https://sealasmile.wisconsin.gov/Consent>

Looking forward to a happy, healthy school year! Please call with your questions or concerns!

Trisha Neuser, RN, School Nurse,

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RICE LAKE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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August 08, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As school nurse for Rice Lake Middle School, I am writing to inform you about the dangers of meningococcal disease, commonly known as bacterial meningitis. Bacterial meningitis is a rare but potentially fatal infection that can occur among teenagers and college students. The great news is, there is a vaccine that may help to prevent this infection.

Meningococcal bacteria can potentially be transmitted through close contact with an infected person through direct contact with respiratory and/or oral secretions from an infected person (for example, through sharing drinking containers or kissing). Teenagers and college students are at increased risk for meningococcal disease compared to the general population, accounting for nearly 30 percent of all U.S. cases every year. Meningococcal disease can be misdiagnosed as something less serious, because early symptoms like high fever, severe headache, nausea, vomiting and stiff neck, are similar to those of common viral illnesses. The disease can progress rapidly and can cause death or permanent disability within 48 hours of initial symptoms.

Up to 83 percent of all cases among teens and college students may potentially be prevented through immunization, the most effective way to prevent this disease. A meningococcal vaccine is available that protects against four out of five strains of bacterium that cause meningococcal disease in the U.S.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other leading medical organizations recommends that all 11-12 years olds be vaccinated with meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4). A booster shot is recommended for teens at age 16 to continue providing protection when their risk for meningococcal disease is highest. Teens who received MCV4 for the first time at age 13 through 15 years will need a one-time booster dose at 16 through 18 years of age. If a teenager missed getting the vaccine altogether, they should ask the doctor about getting it now, especially if they are about to move into a college dorm or military barracks.

For more information about meningococcal disease and immunization, please visit the following websites to learn more about meningococcal disease, vaccine information, and state and local public health resources:

- Barron County Department of Health and Human Services/Public Health at:
http://barronwi.govoffice3.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={0A2B8A12-94F3-4C53-A6E1-0C33D7702F9F}
- Wisconsin Division of Public Health Meningococcal Disease Fact Sheet
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/P-42072.htm>

Meningococcal meningitis information is also available from the following national organizations:

- A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Meningitis Fact Sheet is available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/>
- National Association of School Nurse, *Voices of Meningitis*: <https://www.nasn.org/nasn-resources/educational-initiatives/vom>
- American Academy of Pediatrics
<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/head-neck-nervous-system/Pages/Meningitis.aspx>

Please contact me at the number below if you have questions or if I can be of further assistance!

Sincerely,

Trisha Neuser, School Nurse
Rice Lake Middle School
715-234-8156 ext 5110
neusert@ricelake.k12.wi.us



el 8 de agosto de 2022

Estimado Padre o Tutor:

Como enfermera del Rice Lake Middle School, le escribo para informarle acerca de los peligros de la enfermedad meningocócica, comúnmente conocida como la meningitis bacteriana. La meningitis bacteriana es una infección rara pero potencialmente fatal que puede producirse entre los adolescentes y estudiantes universitarios. La buena noticia es que hay una vacuna que puede ayudar a prevenir esta infección.

Los meningococos potencialmente pueden transmitirse a través del contacto cercano con una persona infectada a través del contacto directo con las secreciones respiratorias y / u orales de una persona infectada (por ejemplo, a través de compartir un mismo vaso o besar). Los adolescentes y los estudiantes universitarios tienen un riesgo elevado de contagiar la enfermedad meningocócica en comparación con la población general – cada año representan casi el 30 por ciento de todos los casos en los Estados Unidos. La enfermedad meningocócica puede ser mal diagnosticada como algo menos grave, ya que los primeros síntomas como fiebre alta, dolor de cabeza intenso, náuseas, vómitos y rigidez en el cuello, son similares a los síntomas de enfermedades virales comunes. La enfermedad puede progresar rápidamente y puede causar la muerte o incapacidad permanente dentro de 48 horas de los síntomas iniciales.

Hasta un 83 por ciento de todos los casos entre los adolescentes y los estudiantes universitarios potencialmente se pueden prevenir mediante la inmunización, la forma más eficaz de prevenir esta enfermedad. Hay una vacuna meningocócica disponible que protege contra cuatro de las cinco cepas de la bacteria que causa la enfermedad meningocócica en los EE.UU.

Los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC, o Centers for Disease Control and Prevention en inglés) y otros líderes en las organizaciones médicas recomiendan que todos los niños de 11 a 12 años sean vacunados con la vacuna antimeningocócica conjugada (MCV4). Un refuerzo de la vacuna se recomienda para los adolescentes a los 16 años para continuar ofreciendo protección cuando el riesgo de la enfermedad meningocócica es más alta. Los adolescentes que recibieron la MCV4 por primera vez entre los 13 años hasta los 15 años necesitarán una dosis de refuerzo una sola vez entre los 16 a 18 años de edad. Si un adolescente no ha recibido la vacuna, debe preguntar al médico sobre recibirla ahora, sobre todo si van a vivir en una residencia universitaria o cuarteles militares.

Para obtener más información acerca de la enfermedad meningocócica, la vacunación, y los recursos estatales y locales de la salud pública, visite los siguientes sitios web:

- La Comisión de Salud y Servicios Humanos del Condado Barron:

http://barronwi.govoffice3.com/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC={0A2B8A12-94F3-4C53-A6E1-0C33D7702F9F}

- Una hoja de información del Departamento de Salud Pública de Wisconsin sobre la enfermedad de Meningitis Meningocócica:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p4/p42072s.pdf>

Información sobre la Meningitis Meningocócica está disponible también de las siguientes organizaciones nacionales:

- Asociación Nacional de la Enfermera Escolar, Voces de Meningitis: [Meningitis Brochure](#)
- Asociación Nacional de Meningitis <http://www.nmaus.org/>

Por favor, ¡póngase en contacto conmigo en el número abajo si tiene preguntas o si puedo ser de más ayuda!

Atentamente,

Trisha Neuser, Enfermera Escolar
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