

The Importance of the Meningitis Vaccine

Meningitis is a serious infection of the covering of the brain and the spinal cord. This infection can be treated with antibiotics, however, many people who get this disease die and many are affected for life. This vaccine is highly recommended for adolescents 11-18 years of age. This vaccine is important for people at highest risk, mainly college freshmen living in dormitories. **Many colleges and vocational schools require or strongly encourage this vaccine.**

Two doses are recommended: the first dose at age 11 or 12 and then a booster dose at age 16. If the first dose is given after the 16th birthday, a booster is not needed.

This vaccine is available at your doctor's office for those with medical insurance.

It is available at the Iowa (930-9870) and Grant (723-6416) County Health Departments for those who are uninsured or who have BadgerCare. Appointments are required.