[DATE]

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is time to start preparing for [FIRST NAME] to start school this fall. In order for your child to learn in a healthy environment, North Dakota law requires that children be immunized prior to attending school. Two doses of meningococcal conjugate (MCV4) vaccine are required for 11th and 12th grade entry. According to the North Dakota Immunization Information System, your child still needs one or more doses of MCV4 vaccine before beginning school. Immunizations can be given during a routine school sports physical or you can contact your child’s doctor’s office or local public health unit to make an appointment to receive the MCV4 vaccine prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

In addition to the required MCV4 vaccine, your child is recommended to receive the vaccines listed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine(s) Recommended</th>
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With the current COVID-19 pandemic in the United States and around the world, the importance of vaccinations has become more critical. Having vaccine preventable diseases and COVID-19 circulating within a school at the same time would lead to large numbers of school absences, school closures, and adversely affect the health of the students. North Dakota healthcare providers and local public health units are taking every precaution to ensure your child can receive their immunizations safely during the pandemic. Don’t wait until the last minute to have your child vaccinated.

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is available to teens starting at age 16. This vaccine requires two doses to be effectively immunized and should be spaced out by two weeks from other routine vaccines. Please visit this website [https://vaccinefinder.org/](https://vaccinefinder.org/) to find a location for your child near you.

When immunized, please be sure to get a copy of your child’s immunization record to give to your child’s school. For more information about school immunization requirements, please visit [www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Schools-ChildCare/](http://www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Schools-ChildCare/).

If you received this letter in error or would like to opt out of receiving immunization reminders from the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH), please complete an online form at [www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Reminder/Default.aspx](http://www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Reminder/Default.aspx).

If you have any questions, please contact the NDDoH Immunization Program at 701.328.3386 or 800.472.2180.

Sincerely,

Molly Howell, MPH
Immunization Director