** Important Update on Meningitis Vaccine **

Did you know? There are now 2 types of meningitis vaccines available.

The first vaccine, Menactra, is the vaccine your student likely received at age 11 and then a booster at age 16. It protects against strains A, C, Y and W (not strain B).

In the past several years, there have been several outbreaks of strains B meningococcal disease on college campuses. Now, a new meningitis B vaccine (either Bexsero or Trumenba) is available (beginning June 2015). It protects against Meningitis B strains.

What is Meningitis?

- Meningitis is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection of the brain and spinal cord.
- Meningitis spreads quickly and can cause hearing loss, brain damage, amputation of limbs and death.
- College students living in dormitories have a six fold increase risk for this serious disease.

Is the meningitis vaccination important?

- Menactra vaccine (protects against strains A, C, Y and W) is recommended at age 11 with a booster dose at age 16 years.
- Meningitis B vaccine (Bexsero or Trumenba) is approved for anyone 16 through 23 years old.

Where are these vaccines available?

- Graham Health Center has Menactra vaccine in stock, call 248-370-2341 for an appointment.
- Oakland County Health Division carries both the Menactra and meningitis B vaccine (Bexsero and Trumenba), call 1-800-848-5533 for more information.
- Check with your insurance provider for coverage.

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