

Please Vote Yes on SB3277
Increase Opportunities for Illinois Children to become Vaccinated Against Meningococcal Disease!

In August, Governor Quinn signed HB3190 into law. HB 3190 amended the Communicable Disease Prevention Act by requiring as of **July 1, 2014** all students “upon entering the 6th and 12th grade of any public, private, or parochial school, to receive an immunization containing meningococcal conjugate vaccine that meets the standards approved by the U.S. Public Health Service for such biological products and is in accordance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.”¹

SB3277 amends the Pharmacy Practice Act and **adds meningococcal** to the list of vaccines, which include seasonal influenza and Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis) that **pharmacists may administer to patients 10 to 13 years old**. Pharmacists are already able to administer meningococcal vaccines to patients 14 years and older.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (CDC ACIP) Recommendations²:

- Children age **11-12 years** should receive one dose of meningococcal vaccine and a booster dose administered at age 16.
- Adolescents age **13-18 years** should receive one dose of meningococcal vaccine, if not previously vaccinated and a booster dose administered at age 16-18 years.

As stated in the *National and State Vaccination Coverage Among Adolescents Aged 13-17 Years – United States, 2012*³, **Illinois remain below the national average (74%) for meningococcal vaccination coverage at 67.7%**. The City of Chicago is above the national average at 77% with the Rest of the State at 65.4%.

As the most accessible health care provider, the CDC has recognized the key role of pharmacists in the immunization neighborhood and increasing vaccination rates⁴, including Erin Kennedy, DVM, MPH, Medical Officer at the CDC National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases in stating: ***“We at CDC believe that pharmacies should be integrated as key community partners in vaccination efforts and emergency response.”***⁵

The members of the Illinois Pharmacists Association and the Illinois Council of Health-System Pharmacists urge you to **Please VOTE YES on SB3277**.

Thank You!

- 1) <http://ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/98/PDF/098-0480.pdf>
- 2) <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6202.pdf>
- 3) <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6234.pdf>
- 4) <http://www.pharmacist.com/cdc-hhs-urge-more-vaccination-coverage>
- 5) <http://www.pharmacist.com/pharmacists-are-key-players-boosting-immunization-rates>