



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

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RICHMOND, VA 23218

ROBERT B. STROUBE, MD., M.P.H.
STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER

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1-800-828-1120

September 17, 2007

The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine
Office of the Governor
Patrick Henry Building, 3rd Floor
1111 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Governor Kaine:

This is to inform you that the annual *Code* review required of the Board of Health by Section 32.1-46 F of the *Code of Virginia* has been completed. This section of the *Code*, effective July 1, 2006, addresses the vaccines included in the *Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule* developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). It also addresses the minimum vaccine requirements for school and day care attendance.

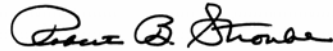
Since our last review in August 2006, one significant change in the *Recommended Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedule* has been made--the inclusion of meningococcal vaccine for 11 and 12 year old children. The *Code* allows for the adoption of this new recommendation without further legislative action and this has occurred.

Regarding school attendance requirements, adding meningococcal vaccine as a school requirement would be good public health practice. However, vaccine supply was an issue for seven months beginning in May 2006, and this required health professionals to defer giving vaccine to adolescents to ensure an adequate vaccine supply to meet the meningococcal vaccination mandates for entering college freshmen. Although vaccine supply was deemed adequate in November of 2006 to support reinstatement of the recommendation for adolescents, I will be recommending to the State Board of Health that we wait a year and monitor the stability of vaccine supply before considering a middle school requirement. Currently no state has a middle school mandate for meningococcal vaccine. If a school mandate were enacted in Virginia it would require an additional \$598,928 in state general funds annually.

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If you have questions or would like additional information please contact Jim Farrell at 804/864-8055 or via e-mail at james.farrell@vdh.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert B. Stroube". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being the most prominent.

Robert B. Stroube, M.D., M.P.H.
State Health Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Marilyn B. Tavenner
Joint Commission on Health Care
Members of the General Assembly