

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE VACCINE

- Whereas, Meningococcal disease is a serious, potentially fatal bacterial infection that strikes between 1,000 to 3,000 Americans annually; and
- Whereas, Meningococcal disease is contagious, spread through air droplets and direct contact with secretions of infected persons via coughing, kissing, or sharing of drinks; and
- Whereas, Meningococcal disease is often misdiagnosed as something less serious because early symptoms are similar to the flu, but, when left untreated, progresses rapidly, sometimes, within hours, leading to death of an otherwise healthy individual; and
- Whereas, Adolescents and young adults are particularly susceptible to meningococcal disease, accounting for 15 percent of all cases nationally; one out of seven adolescents who contract the disease will die; and
- Whereas, Among those who survive meningococcal disease, approximately 15 to 20 percent suffer long-term consequences , such as brain damage, kidney disease, hearing loss or limb amputations; and
- Whereas, Two meningococcal conjugate vaccines (MCV4) are licensed in the United States and approved for persons age 2-55; and
- Whereas, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends an initial meningococcal disease vaccination at age 11-12 and a booster dose at age 16 ; therefore be it
- Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent associations educate their members about the dangers of meningococcal disease; and be it further
- Resolved, That National PTA and its constituent associations advocate for Implementation of the CDC recommendation for an initial meningococcal disease vaccination at age 11-12 and a booster dose at age 16 and a booster dose to protect all children from the devastating effects of this disease
- Adopted: by the 2013 Convention Delegates