



## **\*\* 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.