

Garrett's Law A [senate bill](#) was legislated in 2004 regarding meningococcal meningitis, human papilloma virus (HPV), influenza and the vaccinations that prevent them. It is required that schools provide parents/legal guardians information regarding these viruses and their vaccines.

[Meningococcal disease](#) refers to a disease caused by the bacteria Neisseria Meningitidis. The virus can be severe and affects a person's blood, their brain, and spinal cord. The virus can lead to death. It is treated with antibiotics. However, it can be prevented with a meningococcal immunization.

[Meningococcal immunizations](#) are required for 11 & 12 year olds prior to 7th grade and for 16 year olds or by 12th grade.

[Influenza](#) is caused by the influenza virus and causes a respiratory illness. The illness is very contagious and can be severe, especially in older adults, young children and those with underlying conditions. The best way to prevent the flu is to be immunized annually.

[Flu vaccinations](#) are the best way to prevent influenza. This helps reduce severe illness, hospitalizations and even death. The flu vaccine is not a requirement for public schools in NC, but it is strongly recommended. Please talk to your child's pediatrician to see if they recommend the flu shot to prevent the spread of influenza.

[Human Papilloma Virus](#) is a very contagious virus that can cause numerous cancers. It is estimated that 1 in 4 people in the U.S. are currently infected with HPV.

[The HPV immunization](#) is a safe, effective method to prevent the hpv strains that most commonly cause cancer. It is typically given in two doses to 11-12 year old boys and girls. The 2nd dose is given 6-12 months after the first dose. It can be given as young as 9 years old. If the immunization is given on their 15th birthday or after, 3 doses will be required.