

National Meningitis Association Applauds FDA Approval of Menactra Vaccine

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The National Meningitis Association (NMA) applauds the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of sanofi pasteur's meningococcal vaccine, Menactra.

“We believe availability of this new vaccine is a significant step in protecting adolescents and young adults against this terrible disease,” said Lynn Bozof, NMA executive director. “Research shows adolescents and young adults are at increased risk for meningococcal disease, and we are pleased health care providers will now be able to provide better protection against the majority of meningococcal disease cases among this age group.”

As parents of adolescents and college students who have died or suffered permanent disabilities as a result of this disease, NMA works to educate families about meningococcal disease and methods of prevention, including immunization.

NMA supports the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations that college students and parents be educated about the risk of meningococcal disease and the benefits of immunization. Currently, the CDC is developing new vaccination recommendation, anticipated in February, specifically targeting younger adolescents and college students.

“We are especially pleased that the CDC is considering expanded immunization recommendations for adolescents and young adults,” said Bozof. “NMA board members do not want other families to experience the tragedy that has affected our families.”

About the National Meningitis Association

The National Meningitis Association (NMA) is a nonprofit organization founded by parents of children who have died or suffered long-term effects of meningococcal meningitis. NMA's mission is to educate families, medical professionals and others about bacterial meningitis and prevention approaches to the disease.

For more information about NMA and the organization's activities, or to contact a member of NMA, please call 1-866-FONE-NMA (1-866-366-3662) or visit www.nmaus.org.