**Meningitis Vaccination Urged For Adolescents 11-18**

**As Part Of Healthy Back-To-School Routine**

**Nearly Half Of Parents Public Health Officials Recommend Vaccination for Adolescents and Young Adults**

(NAPA)—A recent national consumer survey found that over 50 percent of most parents have heard of meningococcal disease or meningitis, nearly a third have visited a public health official to recommend vaccination for their children, and over 90 percent of young adults and only one in three parents have had their child vaccinated against the disease. However, once made aware of meningococcal disease and the availability of a vaccine to prevent it, 81 percent of parents indicated they would seek to do so for their child's physician about vaccination.

The National Meningitis Asso-
ciation (NMA) urges parents to talk to their child's doctor about meningitis vaccination to help keep their children healthy this new school year. Meningococcal disease is a seri-
ous bacterial infection that can lead to death or permanent disa-
ability within hours. Adolescents and young adults are at increased risk for the disease; however, a larger percentage of the general public group can potentially be prevented by vaccination. Health officials now recommend meningococcal immunization for all adolescents and young adults from ages 11 to 24 years.

**Meningococcal Disease**

Not only is meningococcal disease a life-threatening illness that can spread quickly among friends and family, but the most common meningococcal disease strain spreads among college students to their dorm mates. One case of meningococcal meningitis in a college setting was documented recently at a university where a student who had been vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis contracted a second type of the disease.

**Ticks**

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tion (NMA) urges parents to talk to their child's doctor about meningitis vaccination to help keep their children healthy this new school year.

**Ticks**

Ticks are a threat to every mam-
mal, bird, and reptile that can pos-
sess a host. Ticks are found in heavily vegetated areas and can be a threat to pets. Fleas can be a real nui-
sance, bird and reptile, and they are spread by the most commonly reported vec-
tor-borne disease in the United States. Ticks, which can carry and transmit diseases such as Lyme disease, meningitis, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, are a threat to every mammal, bird and reptile that can possess a host. Ticks are found in heavily vegetated areas and can be a threat to pets.

**Reducing Tick Populations**

Reducing tick populations near your home can significantly reduce the risk of tick-borne diseases and other arthropod-borne illnesses. Safety tips to reduce tick populations near your home include:

- **Vacuuming:** Remove ticks from your home on a regular basis.
- **Trapping:** Use tick traps to prevent ticks from entering your home.
- **Treating:** Treat your pets for ticks on a regular basis.
- **Reducing Tick Populations:** Reduce tick populations near your home on a regular basis.
- **Treating:** Treat your pets for ticks on a regular basis.

**Fleas**

Fleas can be a real nuisance to every mammal, bird and reptile that can possess a host. Ticks are found in heavily vegetated areas and can be a threat to pets. Fleas can be a real nuisance to pets and pets outdoors, which can then enter and infest your home. Pets can pick up ticks and fleas outdoors, which can then enter and infest your home. Pets can pick up ticks and fleas outdoors, which can then enter and infest your home.

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