

VOICES OF MENINGITIS™

A Meningococcal Disease Prevention Campaign
from the National Association of School Nurses

In collaboration with sanofi pasteur

Voices Challenge Submission Form

NASN urges you to complete the following form and share with us your efforts to raise awareness about meningococcal meningitis and vaccination within your community. **No effort is too small to highlight!**

Completed forms can be e-mailed to the NASN at voiceschallenge@nasn.org or mailed to: National Association of School Nurses ▪ 8484 Georgia Ave ▪ Suite 420 ▪ Silver Spring, MD 20910 ▪ ATTN: Voices Challenge.

Name, Title, School:

Barbara Fede, RN, School Nurse
Parkville Middle School and Center of Technology
Parkville, MD

Date of Activity (mm/dd/yyyy):

Ongoing project from October 24 – November 9, 2011

Description of Activity: My nursing student, health assistant and I were talking a month ago about our families and their illnesses. My health assistant mentioned how ill her son became when he contracted meningitis when he was 9 years old. He was playing football with his team and became very ill with fever, vomiting and overwhelming fatigue. She took him to the hospital where they were convinced that he had the flu, until a doctor checked him for nuccal rigidity. It was positive and a spinal tap was performed confirming the diagnosis of meningitis. The culprit was the cup shared by all team mates during the game. The happy ending is that her son is alive and well in college today.

Our discussion prompted me to become more involved with the meningitis initiative supported by NASN. My nursing student, Chelsea, is required to do a health teaching project so we decided that meningitis awareness would be so apropos for our 8th grade students. Chelsea has become very involved with this endeavor and used many of the reference, resources and handouts available on the website. She created an informative and age-appropriate power point presentation for the health class, made posters to place on the walls of the school and wrote a letter to the parents and attached a fact sheet that will go home with all 8th grade students encouraging vaccination. A tear-off was include with the letter to determine if the child was vaccinated or if the parent was interested in obtaining further information, and we asked that the form be returned to the nurse's office. The website and newsletter will be used as a vehicle to disseminate the information. Since our middle school is a magnet for technology and mass communications, our students are able to share the information with staff and students by various media.

Materials Used (type in “x” in the box to all that apply)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Template school nurse presentation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Template state mandate letter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Template parent presentation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Report card sticker |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Parent letter | <input type="checkbox"/> | Website widget |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Posters | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | FAQ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Brochure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Vaccination questionnaire |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Fact sheet | <input type="checkbox"/> | “Honeywell” or Voicemail Script |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Public service announcement or other <i>Voices</i> videos | <input type="checkbox"/> | Meningitis Case/Outbreak Advisory |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Template newsletter article / listserv e-mail | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (please specify) |

Power-point designed by student.

Key Learnings:

We were amazed that there were so many students that were unaware of meningitis and mode of transmission. The students were engaged in the presentation and became interactive with questions and answers. The pretest and post-test were remarkable for knowledge gained. Some of the parents have returned the letters relating that they will talk to their physician about vaccination, and we are still waiting for the rest of the tear-offs to be returned.

