



# Meningitis Response

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION *(Please Read)*

Name: _____			Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>
Last	First	Middle		
Student ID: _____		Date of Birth _____		

### MENINGITIS VACCINATION INFORMATION

Meningococcal disease can be devastating and often-and unexpectedly-strikes otherwise healthy people. Although meningococcal disease is uncommon, teens and young adults 16 through 23 years old (not just those in college) are at increased risk. Meningococcal bacteria can cause severe disease, including infections of the lining of the brain and spinal cord (meningitis) and bloodstream infections (bacteremia or septicemia), and can result in permanent disabilities and even death. Common symptoms are: confusion, fatigue (feeling very tired), rash of dark purple spots, sensitivity to light, stiff neck, vomiting, headache, high fever, nausea.

Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but certain groups are at increased risk. These include:

- College students and military recruits living in dorms or barracks
- People with certain medical conditions or immune system disorders including a damaged or removed spleen
- People who may have been exposed to meningococcal disease during an outbreak
- International travelers

Meningococcal bacteria are spread person-to-person through the exchange of saliva or nasal secretions. The bacteria are not spread by casual contact or by breathing the air where a person with meningococcal disease has been. One must be in direct (close) contact with an infected person's secretions in order to be exposed. Close contact includes activities such as: living in the same household, kissing, sharing eating utensils, food, drinks, cigarettes, etc.

The best way to prevent meningococcal disease is to get vaccinated. There are two kinds of vaccines in the United States that protect against 4 types of meningococcal disease known as A/C/Y/W-135. Two doses are recommended for all adolescents. The first dose is recommended at 11-12 years of age. Since protection wanes, a booster dose is recommended at age 16 years so adolescents continue to have protection during the ages when they are at highest risk of meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal vaccines are safe and effective. As with all vaccines, there can be minor reactions, including pain and redness at the injection site or a mild fever for one or two days. Severe side effects, such as a serious allergic reaction, are very rare. It is important to know that 1) no vaccine offers 100% protection, 2) protective immunity declines 3-5 years after the first dose of meningococcal vaccine and a booster dose is needed to provide continued protection; 3) Meningococcal Meningitis A/C/Y/W-135 vaccine contains only 4 of the 5 most common types of meningococcal disease and; 4) not all cases of meningitis are caused by meningococcal bacteria. Symptoms of meningitis in a vaccinated person should always warrant immediate medical attention regardless of vaccination.

**Where can I get more information about meningococcal vaccine?**

Your Healthcare Provider, and  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/index.html>

**RESPONSE (If you have received the vaccine, provide verification of the same on proof of immunizations – not on this form)**

Having read the above information, please check one of the following:

- I am a Resident Student and have received the vaccine on \_\_\_\_\_
- I have already received the meningitis vaccine within the past five (5) years on \_\_\_\_\_
- I do not wish (my student) to receive the vaccine (Commuters Only).
- I have decided to receive the meningitis vaccine at some future time (Commuter Only).

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*If student is under 18 years of age, sign and date:*

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

**Meningitis Vaccine is Mandatory for Students in University Housing**