

ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINATION RESPONSE FORM

New York State Public Health Law requires that all college and university students enrolled for at least six (6) semester hours or the equivalent per semester, or at least four (4) semester hours per quarter, complete and return the following form to Health Services (Fax: 718.399.2379).

Check one box and sign below.

I have (for students under the age of 18: My child has):

had meningococcal immunization within the past five years. The vaccine record is attached.

(Note: The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that all first-year college students up to age 21 years should have at least one dose of Meningococcal ACWY vaccine not more than five years before enrollment, preferably on or after their 16th birthday, and that young adults aged 16 through 23 years may choose to receive the Meningococcal B vaccine series. College and university students should discuss the Meningococcal B vaccine with a health care provider.)

read, or have had explained to me, the information regarding meningococcal disease. I (my child) will obtain immunization against meningococcal disease within 30 days from my private health care provider.

read, or have had explained to me, the information regarding meningococcal disease. I understand the risks of not receiving the vaccine. I have decided that I (my child) will not obtain immunization against meningococcal disease.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent / Guardian if student is a minor)

Print student's name _____ Student's date of birth _____

Student's email address _____ Student ID# _____ / _____ / _____

Student's mailing address _____

Student's phone number () _____

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Meningococcal disease is rare. However, when it strikes, its flu-like symptoms make diagnosis difficult. Meningococcal disease can cause serious illnesses, such as infection of the lining of the brain and spinal column (meningitis) or blood infections (sepsis). The disease strikes quickly and can lead to severe and permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb amputation and even death.

Meningococcal disease can easily be spread from person to person by coughing, sharing beverages or eating utensils, kissing or spending time in close contact with someone who is sick or who carries the bacteria. People can spread the bacteria that causes meningococcal disease even before they know they are sick. There have been several outbreaks of meningococcal disease at college campuses across the United States.

The single best way to prevent meningococcal disease is to be vaccinated. The meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine protects against four major strains of bacteria which cause about two-thirds of meningococcal disease in the U.S. The MenACWY vaccine is recommended for all U.S. teenagers and young adults up to the age of 21 years. Protection from the MenACWY vaccine is estimated to last about three to five years, so young adults who received the MenACWY vaccine before their 16th birthday should get a booster dose before entering college. The meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine protects against a fifth type of meningococcal disease, which accounts for about one-third of the cases in the U.S. Young adults aged 16 through 23 years may choose to receive the MenB vaccine series. They should discuss the MenB vaccine with a healthcare provider.

All private insurance plans not grandfathered under the Affordable Care Act are required to cover the cost of MenACWY and MenB vaccines. Contact your health insurance plan to determine whether it covers MenACWY and MenB vaccines. The federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) and New York state Vaccines for Adults (VFA) programs will cover both MenACWY and MenB vaccines for: Children and adults who have no health insurance or whose health insurance does not cover these vaccines; for children less than 19 years of age who are American Indian or Alaska Native; or for people 18 years or younger who are eligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus. St. Joseph's College does not provide the MenACWY and MenB vaccinations, but parents and students may call Health Services at 718.399.2379 for information on low cost options to obtain one of these vaccinations.

Please carefully review the attached Meningococcal Disease Fact Sheet. It is also available on the New York State Department of Health website at www.health.ny.gov/publications/2168.pdf.

Please complete the Meningococcal Vaccination Response Form on the reverse side of this letter and return it to the Center for Wellness in the envelope provided or via fax to 718.399.2379.

To learn more about meningococcal disease and the vaccine, please feel free to contact the Center for Wellness and/or consult your child's physician. You can also find information about the disease on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/.