

Serogroup B Meningococcal Disease (MenB)

College students are at increased risk for meningococcal disease, a potentially fatal bacterial infection commonly referred to as meningitis. In fact, freshman living in residence halls are found to have a six fold increased risk for the disease. A US health advisory panel recommends that college students, particularly freshman living in residence halls, learn more about meningitis and vaccination.

What is meningococcal meningitis?

Meningitis is rare, but when it strikes, this potentially fatal bacterial disease can lead to swelling of fluid surrounding the brain and spinal column as well as severe and permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb amputation and even death.

How is it spread?

Meningococcal meningitis is spread through the air via respiratory secretions or close contact with an infected person. This can include coughing, sneezing, kissing or sharing items like utensils, cigarettes and drinking glasses.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms of meningococcal meningitis often resemble the flu and can include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, rash, nausea, vomiting, lethargy and confusion.

Who is at risk?

College students, particularly freshman who live in dormitories or residence halls have been found to have an increased risk for meningitis. Other undergraduates should also consider vaccination to reduce their risk for the disease.

Can MenB be prevented?

Yes. A safe and effective vaccine is available to protect against MenB. There are two MenB vaccines available- Bexsero® and Trumenba®. **For best protection, more than 1 dose of serogroup B meningococcal vaccine is needed.** As with any vaccine, vaccination against MenB may not protect 100% of all susceptible individuals.

For more information visit the websites of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/mening-serogroup.html, and American College Health Association, www.acha.org.

SEROGROUP B MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE WAIVER

I understand that students enrolled in an institution of higher education and who reside in on-campus housing are required to be vaccinated against the meningococcal disease. I have read the meningitis information on this page and am aware of the risks detailed. In addition, I acknowledge the detrimental health effects of the disease and I understand the availability and effectiveness of the vaccine.

I do not wish the vaccine and I voluntarily agree to release, discharge, indemnify and hold harmless Delaware State University from any costs, liabilities, expenses, claims, demands, or causes of action on account of any loss or personal injury that might result from my non-compliance of receiving the vaccine while I am a commuter.

I have read and signed this document with full knowledge of its significance.

I have decided not to be vaccinated with the serogroup B meningococcal meningitis vaccine.

I have decided not to receive the additional doses of serogroup B meningococcal meningitis vaccine.

Student Signature _____

Date _____

Print Name _____

D# _____

Signature Parent/Legal Guardian _____

Date _____

Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian _____