



MENINGITIS ON CAMPUS

Know Your Risk

Learn About Vaccination

Certain college students are at increased risk for meningococcal disease, a potentially fatal bacterial infection commonly referred to as meningitis.

In fact, freshmen living in dorms are found to have a six fold increased risk for the disease. A U.S. health advisory panel recommends that college students, particularly freshmen living in dorms, 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?** Certain college students, particularly freshmen who live in dormitories or residence halls, have been found to have an increased risk for meningococcal meningitis. Other undergraduates can also consider vaccination to reduce their risk for the disease.
- **Can meningitis be prevented?** Yes. A safe and effective vaccine is available to protect against four of the five most common strains of the disease. The vaccine provides protection for approximately three to five years. As with any vaccine, vaccination against meningitis may not protect 100 percent of all susceptible individuals.
- **For more information:** To learn more about meningitis and the vaccine, visit the office of student life for additional information. You can also visit the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo, and the American College Health Association, www.acha.org.

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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 the Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology/ Office of Student Life.

Check one box and sign below

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

- Had the meningococcal meningitis immunization (Menomune™) within the past 10 years.
Date received: _____

- Read, or have had explained to me, the information regarding meningococcal meningitis disease. **I (my child) will obtain immunization** against meningococcal meningitis **within 30 days** from my private health care provider or the Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology.

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

Signature _____ Date _____
(Student or Parent/Guardian if student is a minor)

Print Student's name _____ Student
D.O.B. ___/___/___

Student
E-mail address _____

Student
Mailing Address _____
Street Address

City State Zip Code

Student
Phone number () _____