

D'YOUVILLE

New York State Public Health Law (NYS PHL) §2167 requires institutions to distribute information about meningococcal disease and vaccine to all students meeting the enrollment criteria, whether they live on or off campus. D'Youville is required to maintain a record of the following for each student:

A response to receipt of meningococcal disease and vaccine information signed by the student or student's parent or guardian **AND EITHER** a record of meningococcal immunization within the past 5 years; **OR** an acknowledgement of meningococcal disease risks and refusal of meningococcal immunization signed by the student or student's parent or guardian.

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 lead to death.

Meningococcal disease can be easily 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.

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 United States (U.S.). The MenACWY vaccine is recommended for all U.S. teenagers and young adults up to age 21 years. Protection from the MenACWY vaccine is estimated to last about 3 to 5 years, so young adults who received the MenACWY vaccine before 16 years old 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 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 NYS 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, as well as for children less than 19 years of age who are American Indian or Alaska Native or eligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

Immunizations should be discussed with your physician during your college physical to ensure that you meet all the requirements. If you are looking to obtain a meningitis vaccine and cannot see your physician, you may be able to receive the vaccine from the following locations: Erie County Department of Health or Erie County Medical Center.

Please carefully review the attached Meningococcal Disease Fact Sheet at the following link: www.health.ny.gov/publications/2168.pdf. To learn more about meningococcal disease and the vaccine, please feel free to visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/meningococcal

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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:

Check one box and sign below:

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

had meningococcal immunization within the past 5 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 1 dose of Meningococcal ACWY vaccine not more than 5 years before enrollment, preferably on or after their sixteenth 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 healthcare 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. The vaccine record will be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs at D'Youville for review and retention.

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 under 18)

Print: _____

Student Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Phone Number: _____
