

MENINGOCOCCAL WAIVER

Name: _____

DOB: _____

XID: _____

South Carolina law requires all public institutions to inform entering college students about the risks of meningococcal disease. Clemson University requires the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra, Menveo, or MenQuadfi) after the 16th birthday for all entering students age 21 or younger. If the initial dose was given before the 16th birthday, a booster is required. Entering students must present proof of meningococcal conjugate vaccination or may sign a waiver declining the meningitis vaccination. All other college students who wish to reduce their risk of infection may choose to be vaccinated. A second vaccine specific for prevention of serogroup B meningococcal disease (MenB) is not required but is available for individuals wishing to reduce their risk of acquiring the disease.

Meningococcal Disease

Meningococcal disease is contagious and progresses very rapidly. The bacteria are spread person-to-person through the air by respiratory droplets (e.g., coughing, sneezing). The bacteria can also be transmitted through direct contact with an infected person, such as kissing. If not treated early, meningitis can lead to death or permanent disabilities. One in five of those who survive will suffer from long-term side effects, such as brain damage, hearing loss, seizures or limb amputation.

Meningococcal disease can affect people at any age. The rate of infection is highest in infancy, with the second peak in adolescence. The highest rates of meningococcal disease occurs in those aged 16-23. Due to lifestyle factors, such as crowded living situations, bar patronage, smoking or exposure to second-hand smoke, irregular sleep patterns and sharing of personal items, college students living in residence halls are at a higher risk of acquiring meningococcal disease than the general college population.

In the United States, potentially vaccine-preventable strains cause 73 percent of all cases of meningococcal disease among persons aged 11 years or older and are caused by strains preventable with the conjugate vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American College Health Association recommend the conjugate meningitis (MCV4) vaccine for all first-year college students living in residence halls to protect against four of the five most common strains (or types) of *Neisseria meningitidis* (A, C, Y and W). A specific vaccine to protect against the fifth most common strain of *N. meningitidis*, serogroup B, is also available (MenB). The MenB vaccine is highly recommended for individuals at increased risk of acquiring meningococcal disease such as those with compromised immune systems due to disease or undergoing immunosuppressive therapies.

I have read and understand the risk of the Meningococcal disease and I am declining to receive the vaccine.

Declined Meningococcal Vaccination _____

Date _____

Student Signature Required

Parental/Legal Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Required for students under the age of 18

Retrieved from:

cdc.gov/meningococcal/clinical-info.html

who.int/health-topics/meningitis#tab=tab_1

Please visit our website at clemson.edu/studenthealth.

