



MINOR - MEDICAL CONSENT & MENINGITIS SURVEY

**** TO BE COMPLETED BY THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF ALL STUDENTS AGE 17 OR YOUNGER ****

Student Name: _____ Student ID#: 855_____

Student DOB: _____ Parent/Guardian Contact #: (_____) _____

MENINGITIS SURVEY

If student is 18 years or older, DO NOT complete this form. Survey must be completed online via WP Connect Student Health Portal

New Jersey statutes require that all students be informed about meningitis disease, the effectiveness of the vaccines and the availability of immunization. The meningitis vaccine can be obtained through your private health care provider, local health departments or some pharmacies. The information is included with this form. After reading the enclosed information on meningitis and the meningitis vaccine please complete the following questionnaire and submit it with your immunization documentation.

Please Check One Box Below:

- I have *already received* the meningitis vaccine.
(Please make sure you upload a copy of your vaccine record to WP Connect Student Health Portal)
- I have reviewed the information on meningitis and *intend* to receive the vaccine.
- I have reviewed the information on meningitis and *choose not to receive the vaccine.*
(I understand I will not be permitted to live on campus without receiving the vaccine or uploading valid exemption document)

Parent/Guardian Name (*print*): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

PARENTAL CONSENT FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT OF A MINOR

I hereby authorize the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center at William Paterson University to render any treatment or medical care deemed necessary for the health and safety of _____

Print Student's Name

and facilitate ambulance transport to a nearby hospital in the case of a medical emergency.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return this completed form via mail / fax / email / in-person:

William Paterson University
Counseling, Health and Wellness Center - Overlook South
300 Pompton Road - Wayne, NJ 07470
Phone # (973) 720-2360 Fax # (973) 720-2632
wpuimmunization@wpunj.edu

Do not return this page to us. Keep this page for your records.

MENINGITIS INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS & PARENT/GUARDIAN

Certain 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 6-fold increased risk for this serious disease according to The American College of Health Association.

What is Meningitis?

Meningitis is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection caused by bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*. It can occur in two forms: as either meningococcal meningitis, an inflammation that affects the brain and spinal cord, or as meningococemia, the presence of bacteria in the blood. Permanent brain damage, hearing loss, learning disability, limb amputation, kidney failure, or death can result from the infection. If untreated, meningitis can lead to shock and death within hours of the first symptoms.

It strikes about 3,000 Americans each year and claims as many as 300 lives. Of those 300 lives claimed, 100 to 125 cases occur on college campuses.

Who is at risk for Meningitis?

Meningitis can strike at any age however, certain age groups have a greater risk for contracting the disease:

- College students, particularly freshman, who live in campus residence halls
- Anyone in close contact with a known case
- Anyone with an upper respiratory infection with a compromised immune system
- Anyone traveling to endemic areas of the world where meningitis is prevalent

How is Meningitis Transmitted?

Meningococcal bacteria are transmitted through air droplets and direct contact with persons already infected with the disease. Direct contact also occurs with shared items, such as cigarettes or drinking glasses, or through intimate contact such as kissing.

Early Signs and Symptoms of Meningitis

Meningitis usually peaks in late winter and early spring, overlapping flu season, and can easily be mistaken for the flu. Because the infection progresses quickly, students should seek medical care immediately if two (2) or more symptoms occur at the same time. If untreated, meningitis can result in death.

Early signs of meningitis include:

- ✓ High fever, rash, nausea and vomiting, severe headache, neck stiffness, lethargy, sensitivity to light

The Meningitis Vaccine

The American College Health Association has adopted the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which states that college students, particularly freshmen living in residence halls, be educated about meningococcal meningitis and the potential benefits of vaccination. It also recommends that other university students wishing to reduce the risk of meningitis should also choose to be vaccinated.

There are two kinds of vaccines that protect against *Neisseria meningitidis* available in the United States: meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (Menomune®), and quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra® and Menveo®).

They are 85% - 100% effective in preventing four (4) kinds of bacteria that cause about 70% of disease in the U.S. The vaccines have mild and infrequent side effects such as redness and pain at the injection site. After vaccination, immunity develops within seven (7) to ten (10) days and remains effective for approximately five (5) years. As with any vaccine, vaccination against meningitis may not protect 100% of all susceptible individuals.

According to New Jersey State Law all students who reside in campus residence halls after 2004 must receive a quadrivalent meningitis vaccine prior to moving onto campus.

For more information about meningitis and the vaccine, visit the Health and Wellness Center at WPU or contact your family physician. You can also visit the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/default.htm>