



MENINGOCOCCAL NOTIFICATION

Completion of this form is required in order for your student housing license agreement to be complete. License agreements submitted without this completed information will be considered incomplete and will not be granted a housing assignment. Compiled data from these license agreement check boxes will be forwarded to Student Health Services and confidentially stored with other student immunization records.

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND VACCINE

Meningococcal disease can be life threatening. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that college freshman living in dormitories receive a newly licensed meningococcal vaccine to prevent Meningococcal disease. The American College Health Association has recommended that colleges and universities inform all students about the disease and educate students about the availability of a safe and effective vaccine. In an effort to better serve you, Student Health Services would like to provide you with the following information about Meningococcal disease and its prevention with the vaccine:

- ☒ Meningococcal disease is caused by the bacterium *N. meningitidis* and is a leading cause of meningitis and blood-borne infection among teens and young adults. Approximately **300 US victims die each year despite antibiotic treatment**, often within the first 24 hours of the onset of symptoms.
- ☒ The disease spreads through the air through respiratory secretions as well as by direct contact with a carrier by kissing, sharing drinking glasses, etc.
- ☒ **College students are at a higher risk.** Studies have suggested that crowded living conditions, a geographically diverse student population, radiator heat, active and passive smoking, bar patronage, and alcohol consumption increase the risk of getting meningococcal disease. **The incidence of invasive meningococcal infection is three times greater for students living on campus than those living off campus. Students living in residence halls were at least 9 times more likely to get Meningococcal disease than those not living in the residence halls.**
- ☒ Just under 3000 cases occur per year in the US, and are caused by various subgroups of the *N. meningitidis* bacterium such as A, B, C, Y and W-135.
- ☒ Entering college students, particularly those living in residence halls and group housing, are advised to **strongly consider getting a dose of Meningococcal vaccine**. The vaccine, which is usually effective for up to 3-5 years, protects against the A, C, Y and W-135 strains of *N. meningitidis*.

Based on the possibility of increased risk, we recommend that students consider the Meningococcal vaccine as a way to reduce their risk for potentially fatal Meningococcal disease. No vaccine is ever 100% effective, but this vaccine has been shown to be 85%-100% effective in preventing the disease caused by two of the most common types of the Meningococcal bacteria, type C and type Y. It does not protect against type B that causes about 30% of the infections.

We urge you to strongly consider vaccination with either your family doctor, HMO, clinic, or at the Student Health Services. The vaccine is given in a one-dose injection and is available at Student Health Services for the cost of the medication (<http://www.cpp.edu/~healthcounseling/immunizations/index.shtml#meng>). Please call (909) 869-4000 to schedule an appointment at Student Health Services if you wish to receive the vaccine. You may also make a no-cost appointment to see one of the Student Health Services doctors about this issue. Students who are under age 18 should discuss getting vaccinated with their parent(s) or guardian and can receive the vaccine at Student Health Services with written parental or guardian permission.

For additional information on meningococcal disease and vaccination, please review the following web sites:

- Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov
- American College Health Association: www.acha.org