



MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINATION RESPONSE FORM

ALL STUDENTS – Please complete this form and return to the Wellness Center before your 1st day of classes

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, receive education about meningococcal meningitis and complete this form.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends that all first-year college students up to 21 years of age have at least 1 dose of Meningococcal ACWY (MenACWY) vaccine (Brand names: Menactra, Menveo) not more than 5 years before enrollment, preferably on or after the 16th birthday.

Young adults 16 through 23 years of age may choose to receive the Meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine series (Brand names: Trumenba, Bexsero). College and university students should discuss the MenB vaccine with a healthcare provider.

Check one box and sign below.

I have (for students under the age of 18 years refers to the parent or legal guardian) received and reviewed the information regarding meningococcal disease.

- I (My child) had meningococcal immunization (MenACWY and/or MenB) **within the past 5 years of acknowledging this form.** The vaccine record is attached.
- I (My child) will obtain meningococcal immunization **within 30 days** from my private health care provider, the Monroe County Health Department, or other identified location
- I understand the risks of meningococcal disease and the benefits of immunization at the recommended ages. **I have decided that I (my child) will not obtain immunization against meningococcal disease at this time.**

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
Signature of Student (or Parent/Guardian if student is under 18)

Print Student's Name _____

Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

Student Email Address _____

Phone # _____

Student Mailing Address _____

Cell # _____



INFORMATION ABOUT MENINGITIS

Meningococcal disease is a potentially fatal bacterial infection commonly referred to as meningitis. New York State Public Health Law (NYS PHL) §2167 requires institutions, including colleges and universities, to distribute information about meningococcal disease and vaccine to all students meeting the enrollment criteria, whether they live on or off campus. Additionally, Roberts Wesleyan University is required to maintain a record for each student, signed by the student (or parent/guardian for students under the age of 18 years), which documents:

- Record of meningococcal immunization within the past 5 years
OR
- An understanding of meningococcal disease risks and benefits of vaccination at the recommended ages, and the decision not to obtain immunization against meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal disease is rare. However, when it strikes, its flu-like symptoms make diagnosis difficult. Meningococcal disease can cause serious illness 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 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. There have been several outbreaks of meningococcal disease at college campuses across the United States. **Please carefully review the Meningococcal Disease Fact Sheet, which is available on the New York State Department of Health website at www.health.ny.gov/publications/2168.pdf.**

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 meningococcal disease in the United States. The MenACWY vaccine is recommended for all 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 their 16th birthday should get a booster dose before entering college. The meningococcal B (MenB) vaccine protects against a fifth strain of meningococcal bacteria which also causes meningococcal disease. Young adults aged 16 through 23 years may choose to receive the MenB vaccine series and 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.

To learn more about meningococcal disease and the vaccine, please contact our Wellness Center and/or consult your child's physician. You can also find more information about the disease on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/.

Per public health law, no institution should permit any student to attend the institution in excess of 30 days without complying with this law. The 30-day period may be extended to 60 days if a student can show a good faith effort to comply.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

If your vaccination date exceeds 5 years while you are still a student, you will need to be revaccinated or decline vaccination at that time but resubmitting this form, along with proof of vaccination (if applicable). Declining the vaccination does NOT prevent you from deciding to receive the vaccination at a later date.

Roberts Wesleyan University does **not** offer the meningitis vaccine. You can receive this vaccine from your own health care provider or the Monroe County Health Department, which offers vaccines by appointment. For appointment or information regarding immunizations through the Health Department, please call (585) 753-5150.

Please complete the Meningococcal Vaccination Response Form and upload it to the Student Health Portal at Roberts.studenthealthportal.com