

CU-Boulder Immunization Program Mandatory Meningococcal Disease Information

On and after July 1, 2005, the state law of Colorado requires that all public and non-public post-secondary education institutions provide all incoming students (or their parents/guardians if the student is less than eighteen years of age) the following information concerning meningococcal disease.

The law also requires that all students who have not received a meningococcal vaccination (or their parents/guardians if the student is less than eighteen years of age) check a box indicating their decision on whether or not to receive a meningococcal vaccination.

- **Meningococcal disease is a serious disease** caused by a bacterium.
- **Meningococcal disease is a contagious, but largely preventable, infection of the spinal cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain.** Meningococcal disease can also cause blood infections.
- About 2,600 people get meningococcal disease each year in the United States; 10 to 15 percent of these people die in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, another 10 percent lose their arms or legs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous system, become mentally retarded, or suffer seizures or strokes.
- Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but it is most common in infants less than one year of age and in people with certain medical conditions. **Scientific evidence suggests that college students living in dormitory facilities are at a modestly increased risk of contracting meningococcal disease.**
- **Immunization against meningococcal disease decreases the risk of contracting the disease.** Meningococcal vaccine can prevent four of the five types of meningococcal disease; these include two of the three most common in the United States. Meningococcal vaccine cannot prevent all types of the disease, but it does help to protect many people who might become sick if they do not get the vaccine.
- A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. The risk of the meningococcal vaccine causing serious harm or death is extremely small. Getting a meningococcal vaccination is much safer than getting the disease.
- More information can be obtained from the Vaccine Information Statement available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS/vis-mening.pdf>. Students and their parents/guardians should discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with their health care providers.

Please check one box:

- I am interested in the student receiving the meningococcal vaccine. **
- I am NOT interested in the student receiving the meningococcal vaccine.*
- The student has already received the meningococcal vaccine. ***

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I have reviewed the information provided regarding meningococcal disease.

Please Print Name of Student: _____

Student's Date of Birth: _____

Student ID / Social Security Number: _____

Signature: _____

(Parent, guardian, emancipated student, or student 18 years and older.)

Date of Signature: _____

* To receive the meningococcal vaccination, check with your primary care provider or local health department (for a list of the local public health agencies in Colorado, go to <http://www.cdphs.state.co.us/oll/localist.html>). **Wardenburg Health Center sponsors an annual flu and meningitis vaccination clinic each fall in late October or early November.** As the clinic approaches, students are notified via e-mails and other media. Information is also mailed to the permanent address on file for each student to inform parents of the clinic.

**Receipt of the meningococcal vaccine should be recorded on the Certificate of Immunization for College Students.