

NOTICE OF IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

A) Measles, Mumps and Rubella (“MMR”):

The State of New York mandates that students provide proof of immunizations for measles, mumps, and rubella if they were born on or after January 1, 1957. All such students will be required to provide the Office of Admissions with a copy of his/her immunization record or have a doctor complete the immunization form and submit it to the Office of Admissions by **Friday, July 29, 2022**.

B) Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccination Response Form

Regardless of state of residence, all students must complete and submit this form by **Friday, July 29, 2022**.

While you are not required to receive a meningitis vaccination, you are required to register your decision on this issue. New York State advises that students consider taking the meningococcal vaccine, which can prevent a potentially fatal bacterial infection known as (meningococcal) meningitis. New York State Public Health Law (NYS PHL) §2167 requires colleges and universities, to distribute information about meningococcal disease and vaccination to all students meeting the enrollment criteria, whether they live on or off campus.

Yeshiva University is required to maintain a record of the following for each student:

A response of receipt of meningococcal disease and vaccine information signed by the student. The information provided to you must include information on the availability and cost of meningococcal meningitis vaccine (Menomune™ or Menactra); AND EITHER

A record of meningococcal meningitis immunization **within the past 5 years (August 2017 or later)**; OR

An acknowledgement of meningococcal disease risks and refusal of meningococcal meningitis immunization signed by the student.

Additional information and the required form are attached. Please be sure to review the materials and complete and return the form by the deadline.

Meningococcal Disease

What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is caused by bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*. It can lead to serious blood infections. When the linings of the brain and spinal cord become inflamed, it is called meningitis. The disease strikes quickly and can have serious complications, including death.

Anyone can get meningococcal disease. Some people are at higher risk. This disease occurs more often in people who are:

- Teenagers or young adults
- Infants younger than one year of age
- Living in crowded settings, such as college dormitories or military barracks
- Traveling to areas outside of the United States, such as the “meningitis belt” in Africa
- Living with a damaged spleen or no spleen
- Being treated with Soliris® or, who have complement component deficiency (an inherited immune disorder)
- Exposed during an outbreak
- Working with meningococcal bacteria in a laboratory

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms appear suddenly – usually 3 to 4 days after a person is infected. It can take up to 10 days to develop symptoms. Symptoms may include:

- A sudden high fever
- Headache
- Stiff neck (meningitis)
- Nausea and vomiting
- Red-purple skin rash
- Weakness and feeling very ill
- Eyes sensitive to light

How is meningococcal disease spread?

It spreads from person-to-person by coughing or coming into close or lengthy contact with someone who is sick or who carries the bacteria. Contact includes kissing, sharing drinks, or living together. Up to one in 10 people carry meningococcal bacteria in their nose or throat without getting sick.

Is there treatment?

Early diagnosis of meningococcal disease is very important. If it is caught early, meningococcal disease can be treated with antibiotics. But, sometimes the infection has caused too much damage for antibiotics to prevent death or serious long-term problems. Most people need to be cared for in a hospital due to serious, life-threatening infections.

What are the complications?

Ten to 15 percent of those who get meningococcal disease die. Among survivors, as many as one in five will have permanent disabilities. Complications include:

- Hearing loss
- Brain damage
- Kidney damage
- Limb amputations

What should I do if I or someone I love is exposed?

If you are in close contact with a person with meningococcal disease, talk with your health care provider about the risk to you and your family. They can prescribe an antibiotic to prevent the disease.

What is the best way to prevent meningococcal disease?

The single best way to prevent this disease is to be vaccinated. Vaccines are available for people 6 weeks of age and older. Various vaccines offer protection against the five major strains of bacteria that cause meningococcal disease:

- All teenagers should receive two doses of vaccine against strains A, C, W and Y. The first dose is given at 11 to 12 years of age, and the second dose (booster) at age 16.
 - It is very important that teens receive the booster dose at age 16 in order to protect them through the years when they are at greatest risk of meningococcal disease.
 - Talk to your health care provider today if your teen has not received two doses of vaccine against meningococcal strains A, C, W and Y.
- Teens and young adults can also be vaccinated against the “B” strain. Talk to your health care provider about whether they recommend vaccine against the “B” strain.

Others who should receive the vaccine include:

- Infants, children and adults with certain medical conditions
- People exposed during an outbreak
- Travelers to the “meningitis belt” of sub-Saharan Africa
- Military recruits

Please speak with your health care provider if you may be at increased risk.

What are the meningococcal vaccine requirements for school attendance?

As of September 1, 2016, children entering grades 7 and 12 must be immunized against meningococcal disease strains A, C, W and Y according to the recommendations listed above.

Is there an increased risk for meningococcal disease if I travel?

- Meningococcal disease and outbreaks occur in the United States and around the world. The disease is more common in the “meningitis belt” of sub-Saharan Africa. The risk is highest in people who visit these countries and who have prolonged contact with local populations during an epidemic.
- To reduce your risk of illness, wash your hands often, maintain healthy habits such as getting plenty of rest and try not to come into contact with people who are sick.

Travel and meningococcal disease:

wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/meningococcal-disease

Learn more about meningococcal disease:

www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/

For more information about vaccine-preventable diseases: www.health.ny.gov/prevention/immunization/