

Meningitis Health Information Facts, Policy and Waiver Information

To reduce the spread of bacterial meningitis among the student population, Manhattan Christian College requires all students living in campus housing after August 2006 to receive the meningitis vaccination. All students living in campus housing must **either** provide written documentation of immunization by a medical provider **or** sign a waiver to indicate they have been informed about the disease and vaccine and have chosen not to be immunized. Non-compliant students will not be allowed to move into campus housing until the compliance is documented with the Student Development Office. Manhattan Christian College encourages all other students to consider vaccination as well as to become knowledgeable about meningitis and its symptoms in order to reduce their personal risk.

What is meningococcal meningitis?

Meningococcal meningitis is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream and meninges (a thin lining covering the brain and spinal cord). It is a relatively rare disease and usually occurs as a single isolated event. Cluster of cases or outbreaks are also possible.

Who gets meningococcal meningitis?

Anyone can get meningococcal meningitis, but it is more common in infants, children and young adults. Also, college freshmen who live in dormitories have a slightly higher risk of getting this infection than others their age.

How is the germ that causes this type of meningitis spread?

The meningococcus germ is spread by direct close contact with nose or throat discharges of an infected person. Many people carry this particular germ in their nose and throat without any signs of illness, while others may develop serious symptoms.

What are the symptoms?

Although most people exposed to the meningococcus germ do not become seriously ill, some may develop fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck and a rash. Up to 25 percent of patients who recover may have permanent damage to the nervous system. The disease occasionally causes death.

How soon do the symptoms appear?

The symptoms may appear two to 10 days after exposure, but usually within five days.

When and for how long is an infected person able to spread the disease?

From the time a person is first infected until the germ is no longer present in discharges from the nose and throat, he or she may transmit the disease. The duration varies among individuals and with the treatment used.

What is the treatment for meningococcal meningitis?

Certain antibiotics are very effective in eliminating the germ from the nose and throat. Penicillin is the drug of choice for meningitis.

Should people who have been in contact with a diagnosed case of meningococcal meningitis be treated?

Only people who have been in close contact (household members, intimate contacts, health care personnel performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, day care center play-mates) need to be considered for preventive treatment. Such people are usually advised to obtain a prescription for rifampin for the physician. Casual contact as might occur in a regular classroom, office or factory setting is not usually significant enough to cause concern. People who think they have been exposed to meningococcal infection should contact their local health department to discuss whether they should receive preventive treatment.

Is there a vaccine to prevent meningococcal meningitis?

Presently, there are two vaccines that will protect against several of the strains of the meningococcus germ.

Meningitis Immunization Record--To Be Completed By Medical Provider

Patient Information (please print):

Full Name: _____
First Middle Last

Male Female Date of Birth: _____
mm/dd/yy

Home Telephone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

First Date of Attendance at Manhattan Christian College (mm/dd/yy): _____

<p>MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS Required for Manhattan Christian College Campus Housing. See page 1 on the Residence Hall Application. <i>Circle, sign and date type administered</i></p>	<p>MENACTRA Meningococcal Polysaccharide Diphtheria Toxoid Conjugate Vaccine Groups A,C,Y and W-135 Combined MCV4</p> <p>_____ Medical Provider Signature mm/dd/yy</p>	<p>MENOMUNE Meningococcal Polysaccharide Vaccine Groups A,C,Y and W-135 Combined MPSV4</p> <p>_____ Medical Provider Signature mm/dd/yy</p>
--	---	---

Waiver of Meningococcal Meningitis Immunization (Does Not Receive Vaccination)

I have chosen not to be immunized. My signature below signifies that I have received and read the material provided to me on meningitis by Manhattan Christian College.

Signature of Student-REQUIRED

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian, if student is under 18 years of age

Date