



## BOSTON COLLEGE

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### UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES

Dear Full Time Graduate Student:

Health Services would like to welcome you to Boston College. Enclosed you will find an Immunization form along with an informational *Fact Sheet* titled “*Meningococcal Disease and College Students*” from Massachusetts Department of Public Health . The state of Massachusetts requires that all full-time graduate students entering college must submit proof of the following:

- **1 Tetanus-Diphtheria Booster within the past 10 years**
- **2 MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) Vaccines OR 2 Measles, 2 Mumps and 2 Rubella Vaccine; Dose 1 must be after the first birthday; Dose 2 must be at least one month after the 1st dose**
- **Hepatitis B Vaccine Series (A total of 3 vaccines at varying intervals)**
- **TB Questionnaire**

In addition, the **Graduate School of Nursing Students** are required to have an annual PPD test and either 2 documented doses of the Varicella vaccine or a Positive Varicella Titer. Incidence of disease is **NOT** acceptable for GSON.

**All immunization forms must be received by August 15th. Failure to do so will result in a hold on your registration and an administrative late fee of \$65 will be charged to your student account.**

The information you submit will be maintained by the University Health Services in the strictest confidence and will provide the basic data essential to your care. Our privacy policy is posted on [www.bc.edu/health\\_services](http://www.bc.edu/health_services), along with details of all our medical services.

Health insurance is mandatory in Massachusetts, and each year Student Services will automatically bill your student account the BC Insurance Plan. If you already have another insurance coverage, you can decline this insurance by ***providing on-line insurance waiver information to Student Services (refer to the AGORA website on BC InfoEagle) and the charge will be removed from your account.*** If you retain the BC Insurance plan, and want information about the coverage, please refer to the website for details.

Yours truly,

Thomas I. Nary, M.D.  
Director of Health Services

Enclosures



NAME:

Eagle ID#:

Required for School of Nursing or titer  
**1<sup>st</sup> DOSE VARICELLA**  
Recommended, Not Required

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

Required for School of Nursing or titer  
**2<sup>nd</sup> DOSE VARICELLA**  
Recommended, Not Required

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

**HISTORY VARICELLA**  
Disease History is not acceptable for School of Nursing

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

**TITER - VARICELLA**  
 Immune  Not Immune

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

To answer the TB risk questionnaire, please refer to the list below which details the countries that have high rates of TB.

Afghanistan	Central African Republic	Georgia	Lithuania	Niue	Somalia
Algeria	Chad	Ghana	Madagascar	Northern Mariana Island	South Africa
Angola	China	Guam	Malawi	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
Argentina	China, Hong Kong SAR	Guatemala	Malaysia	Palau	Sudan
Armenia	China, Macao SAR	Guinea	Maldives	Papua New Guinea	Suriname
Azerbaijan	Colombia	Guinea-Bissau	Mali	Paraguay	Swaziland
Bangladesh	Comoros	Guyana	Marshall Islands	Peru	Tajikistan
Belarus	Congo	Haiti	Mauritania	Philippines	Thailand
Belize	Côte d'Ivoire	Honduras	Mauritius	Poland	Togo
Benin	Djibouti	India	Mexico	Portugal	Turkmenistan
Bhutan	Dominican Republic	Indonesia	Micronesia	Qatar	Tuvalu
Bolivia	DR Congo	Iraq	Mongolia	Republic of Moldova	Uganda
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Ecuador	Kazakhstan	Morocco	Romania	Ukraine
Botswana	El Salvador	Kenya	Mozambique	Russian Federation	UR Tanzania
Brazil	Equatorial Guinea	Kiribati	Myanmar	Rwanda	Uzbekistan
Brunei Darussalam	Eritrea	Korea, DPR	Namibia	São Tomé and Príncipe	Vanuatu
Burkina Faso	Ethiopia	Korea Rep.	Nauru	Saudi Arabia	Viet Nam
Burundi	Gabon	Kyrgyzstan	Nepal	Senegal	Wallis & Futuna
Cambodia	Gambia	Lao PDR	Nicaragua	Seychelles	Yemen
Cameroon		Latvia	Niger	Sierra Leone	Zambia
Cape Verde		Lesotho	Nigeria	Solomon Islands	Zimbabwe
		Liberia			

**TB RISK QUESTIONNAIRE**  
Questions 2 and 3 are based on the list of countries that have high TB rates.

1. To the best of your knowledge have you had close contact with anyone who was sick with tuberculosis (TB)?  Yes  No

2. Were you born in one of the countries on the above list?  Yes  No

3. Have you travelled or lived for more than one month in any of the countries on the above list?  Yes  No

If you answer YES to any of the above questions, please submit PPD testing results within one year prior to admission. If you have previously tested PPD positive, please submit the date and provide answers to the additional questions.

**IF YES - PPD RESULTS**  
 Positive  Negative

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

**IF PPD POSITIVE**

Were you counseled on medication and declined?  Yes  No

Are you currently taking TB medication?  Yes  No

Have you completed the full course of TB medication?  Yes  No

**IF POSITIVE PPD SUBMIT CHEST X-RAY RESULTS**  
 Positive  Negative

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9

Please Do Not Write Below Line - For Health Services Purpose Only

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# PUBLIC HEALTH FACT SHEET

## Meningococcal Disease and College Students

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, 305 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

### **What is meningococcal disease?**

Meningococcal disease is caused by infection with bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*. These bacteria can infect the tissue (the “meninges”) that surrounds the brain and spinal cord and cause meningitis, or they may infect the blood or other body organs. In the US, about 2,600 people per year get meningococcal disease and 10-15% die despite receiving antibiotic treatment. Of those who survive, 11-19% may lose limbs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous system, become mentally retarded, or have seizures or strokes.

### **What are *Neisseria meningitidis*?**

*Neisseria meningitidis* are bacteria that may be found normally in people’s throats and noses. About 5 to 15% of people carry these bacteria and do not get sick from them. These people may be called “carriers.” Carriers only have bacteria for a short time. Usually, the bacteria go away and these people may have increased resistance to infection in the future. In rare cases, the bacteria may get into the blood and go to the tissue surrounding the spinal cord and brain, causing severe illness.

### **What are the symptoms of meningococcal disease?**

Signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease include a sudden onset of fever, stiff neck, headache, nausea, vomiting, and/or mental confusion. Changes in behavior such as confusion, sleepiness, and unresponsiveness are important symptoms of illness. A rash may also be present. Anyone who has these symptoms should be seen by a healthcare provider immediately.

### **How are the bacteria spread?**

These bacteria are passed from person-to-person through saliva (spit). You must be in close contact with an infected person’s saliva in order for the bacteria to spread. Close contact includes activities such as kissing, sharing water bottles, sharing eating/drinking utensils or sharing cigarettes with someone who is infected; or being within 3-6 feet of an infected person who is coughing or sneezing.

### **Who is at most risk for meningococcal disease?**

People who travel to certain parts of the world where the disease is very common are at risk for meningococcal disease. Children and adults with damaged or removed spleens or terminal complement component deficiency (an inherited immune disorder) are also at higher risk. People who live in certain settings, such as college freshmen living in dormitories and military recruits, are also at greater risk of disease.

### **Are students in college at risk for meningococcal disease?**

College freshmen and other newly enrolled college students, living in dormitories and other congregate living situations (such as fraternities and sororities), are at an increased risk for meningococcal disease as compared to individuals of the same age not attending college. The closed setting, combined with certain behaviors (such as alcohol consumption, exposure to cigarette smoke, sharing food or beverages, and activities involving the exchange of saliva), may put college students at a greater risk for infection. The risk of meningococcal disease for other college students, in particular older students and students who do not live in congregate housing, is not increased.

## **Is there a vaccine against meningococcal disease?**

Yes, there are currently 2 vaccines available that protect against 4 of the most common of the 13 serogroups (subgroups) of *N. meningitidis* that cause serious disease. Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine is approved for use in those 2 years of age and older and provides protection for 3 to 5 years. Meningococcal conjugate vaccine is approved for use in those 11- 55 years of age, is expected to help decrease disease transmission and to provide more long-term protection. Either of these vaccines is acceptable for college students.

## **How complete is the protection with the vaccine?**

Both currently available vaccines provide protection against serogroups A, C, Y and W-135. These 4 serogroups account for approximately two-thirds of the cases that occur in the US each year. Most of the remaining one-third of the cases are caused by serogroup B, not represented in the vaccines.

## **Is the meningococcal vaccine safe?**

A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing allergic reactions. The risks associated with receiving the vaccine are much less than the risk of meningococcal disease. Some people who get meningococcal vaccine have mild side effects, such as redness or pain where the shot was given. Local reactions are more common in those receiving meningococcal conjugate vaccine. These symptoms usually last for 1-2 days. A small percentage of people who receive the vaccine develop fever. The vaccine can be given to pregnant women.

## **Are students required to receive meningococcal vaccine prior to entering college?**

Massachusetts law requires newly enrolled full-time students attending colleges and schools with grades 9-12, who will be living in a dormitory or other congregate housing, licensed or approved by the school or college, to receive meningococcal vaccine. All students covered by the regulations must provide documentation of having received a dose of meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine within the last 5 years (or a dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine at any time in the past). Immunizations should be obtained prior to enrollment or registration; however, students may be enrolled or registered provided that the required immunizations are obtained within 30 days of registration.

The law contains exemptions. Students may begin classes without a certificate of immunization against meningococcal disease if: 1) the student has a letter from a physician stating that there is a medical reason why he/she can't receive the vaccine; 2) the student (or the student's parent or legal guardian, if the student is a minor) presents a statement in writing that such vaccination is against his/her sincere religious belief; or 3) the student (or the student's parent or legal guardian, if the student is a minor) signs a waiver stating that the student has received information about the dangers of meningococcal disease, reviewed the information provided and: a) elected to decline the vaccine; or b) could not obtain meningococcal vaccine due to a shortage, but wishes to receive vaccine.

More information about this requirement may be found in the MDPH document entitled "*Information about Meningococcal Disease and Vaccination and Waiver for Students at Residential Schools and Colleges*".

While not required, college students who do not live in campus-related housing and want to reduce their risk for meningococcal disease may also choose to be vaccinated.

## **Where can a college student get vaccinated?**

Students and their parents should contact their healthcare provider and make an appointment to discuss meningococcal disease, the benefits and risks of vaccination, and the availability of vaccine. Schools and college health services are not required to provide students with this vaccine.

## **Where can I get more information?**

- Your healthcare provider
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800 or toll-free at (888) 658-2850 or on the MDPH website at <http://www.mass.gov/dph>
- Your local health department (listed in the phone book under government)