

Student Health Service

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE WAIVER REQUEST

Last Name		First Name	
GWID#		Date of Birth	Age
Semester & Year of Entry		Email Address/Contact Number	

Please read and initial each statement that applies. By initialing you indicate that you understand and agree with the statement.

1. _____ I have received and reviewed the information provided by The George Washington University explaining the risk of meningococcal disease, and the effectiveness and availability of the meningococcal vaccine. *Please see page 2 below, or visit Student Health's website for [Immunization Requirements](#).
2. _____ I understand that in compliance with DC Law 3-20 and University policy each first-year student enrolled in and living on-campus at The George Washington University is required to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease unless a waiver is signed.
3. _____ I acknowledge that meningococcal disease is a rare, but life threatening illness however I decline the vaccine on my own behalf since I am eighteen (18) years of age or older.
4. _____ I understand that if I reconsider my decision to decline the vaccine, I may return to the Student Health Service to receive the vaccine.

By signing this waiver, I am seeking an exemption from the meningococcal vaccine requirement mandated by D.C. law. I hereby voluntarily agree to fully release The George Washington University, the Student Health Service and its staff from any and all costs, liabilities, expenses and any other consequences thereof that might result from my decision to decline the meningococcal vaccine.

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Legal Parent/Guardian _____ Relationship to Student _____ Date _____
(If under 18 years of age)

For office use only: Waiver reviewed and granted by: _____ Date _____

Questions and Answers about Meningococcal Meningitis

What is meningococcal meningitis?

It is a rare but potentially fatal disease. It is an inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. This disease is caused by the bacterium *Neisseria meningitidis*.

What are the symptoms?

The common symptoms of meningitis are high fever, headache and stiff neck. Other symptoms include nausea, vomiting or photophobia.

How is it diagnosed?

Patients should consult their health provider as soon as possible if they have signs or symptoms of meningitis. Patients will be evaluated and some of the necessary tests may be blood work, spinal tap and appropriate cultures.

Can bacterial meningitis be treated?

Yes, it can be treated with antibiotics. Treatment should be started as early as possible.

Is meningitis contagious?

Yes, it is contagious. It is not as contagious as the flu, but close or prolonged contact with a person who has meningitis is a risk. Close contacts should receive antibiotics to prevent infection.

Are there vaccines against meningitis?

Yes, there are two vaccines available for Meningococcal infection. Both vaccines are safe and effective. Both vaccines provide protection from 2 of the 3 most common types of meningococcal disease.

Who should get the vaccine?

The Center for Disease Control recommends the vaccine for children/teens ages 11-18 and college freshman living in residence halls.

Where can you get the vaccine?

Your Health provider may offer it. On Campus, you can obtain the vaccine at the Student Health Service.

For more information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/default.htm>
