**Meningococcal Vaccine Waiver**

**Student <18**

[Maryland law](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhealth.maryland.gov%2Fphpa%2FOIDEOR%2FIMMUN%2FShared%2520Documents%2F100605%2520Meningoccal%2520Requirement%2520for%2520Higher%2520Education%2520Institutions.pdf&data=05%7C02%7Clzeigle2%40jhu.edu%7C181379adc48c45daa22508dc16b855a5%7C9fa4f438b1e6473b803f86f8aedf0dec%7C0%7C0%7C638410228163468821%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=84%2FmAdm9Avqfj5LMRQ9q%2FDOZnOzghR5liNAHOnS9qZw%3D&reserved=0) requires that an individual enrolled in an institution of higher education in Maryland who resides in on-campus student housing must be vaccinated against meningococcal disease. This means receipt of the vaccine protecting against at least the four serogroups of A, C, Y, and W-135 of meningococcal disease within the preceding 5 years before the individual moves into on campus student housing.

An individual may be exempt from this requirement if **(1)** the institution of higher education provides the individual or the individual's parent or guardian if the individual is a minor (under 18 years of age) detailed information on the risks associated with meningococcal disease and the availability and effectiveness of any vaccine, and **(2)** the individual or a minor individual's parent or guardian signs a waiver stating that the individual or the parent or guardian has received and reviewed the information provided and has chosen that the individual will not be vaccinated against meningococcal disease.

**Risks associated with meningococcal disease:**

Meningococcal disease is a rare but life-threatening illness, caused by the bacterium, *Neisseria meningitidis.* It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis (an infection of the brain and spinal cord coverings) in the United States. The most severe form of the disease is meningococcemia, infection of the bloodstream by this bacterium. Students living in dormitories or residence halls are at increased risk. The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene encourages meningococcal vaccination of higher education students. Even with antibiotic treatment, 10 to 15% of people with meningococcal disease will die. Up to 1 in 5 survivors will have long-term disabilities, such as:

* Loss of limb(s)
* Deafness
* Nervous system problems
* Brain damage

**Availability and effectiveness of the meningococcal vaccine:**

Vaccines that help protect against meningococcal disease work well but cannot prevent all cases. The CDC first recommended preteens and teens get a MenACWY vaccine in 2005. Since then, rates of meningococcal disease in teens caused by serogroups C, Y, and W have decreased by over 90% (note: serogroup A meningococcal disease continues to be very rare in the United States). Most people who get a meningococcal vaccine do not have any serious problems with it. With any medicine, including vaccines, there is a chance of side effects. These are usually mild and go away on their own within a few days, but serious reactions are possible.

**Meningococcal vaccine is routinely available in the following settings:**

* Pediatric and family practice/primary care offices
* Community health clinics
* Public health departments
* Pharmacies
* JHU Student Health & Well-Being [primary care clinics](https://wellbeing.jhu.edu/PrimaryCare/scheduling-an-appointment/)

Further information on meningococcal disease and vaccination can be found on the [CDC’s website](https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2Fvpd%2Fmening%2Findex.html&data=05%7C02%7Clzeigle2%40jhu.edu%7C181379adc48c45daa22508dc16b855a5%7C9fa4f438b1e6473b803f86f8aedf0dec%7C0%7C0%7C638410228163476910%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5jDmxjFJXkO9N8Mhjoqq7le2bAMI8DWDSQb14qPFoSg%3D&reserved=0).

**Waiver/Declination to receive immunization:**

I attest that I have either received Meningococcal vaccination or I am declining Meningococcal vaccination by signing below.

I understand the possible detrimental effects of meningococcal disease (meningitis) and acknowledge that I have received information about the availability of the meningococcal vaccine. I do not wish to receive the vaccine and I voluntarily agree to release, discharge, indemnify and hold harmless, Johns Hopkins University, its officers, employees, and agents from any and all costs, liabilities, claims, demands, or causes of action on account of any loss or personal injury that might result from my waiving the vaccine. I have read and signed this document with full knowledge of its significance. I further state that I am at least 18 years of age and competent to sign this waiver or a parent/guardian must sign.

**Parent Electronic Signature – student under 18 years old**

I acknowledge that I have reviewed and agree to the terms of the Meningococcal Vaccine Waiver Form. By signing below, I intend to be bound my signature. I understand and agree that a photograph and/or scanned copy of my signature has the same legal validity and effect as a manual signature and that Johns Hopkins University may rely on it as such.

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Student Name

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Parent/Guardian Name Relationship to student

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Parent/Guardian Signature Date