



Meningococcal Vaccine Declination Form

Student Health Services

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ALL FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ENGLISH

Date
____/____/____
ACCEPTED TERM/YEAR
____/____

You can submit this form by uploading it as a PDF to the Health Center's Online Portal, located at www.valdosta.edu/health. Questions can be emailed to immunizations@valdosta.edu or you may call us at **229.219.3203**.

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE DECLINATION

I, _____ (please print name) have been provided with information about meningococcal disease and vaccination. I realize that although anyone can get meningococcal disease, the risk for getting this disease is higher for college students living on campus. I understand that a vaccine is available that can greatly reduce my risk of infection and that by NOT receiving this vaccine, I am placing myself at a higher risk of getting meningococcal disease. I, hereby release Valdosta State University from any and all liability incurred by my refusal to be immunized. Although I am declining to take the vaccine at this time, I realize that I can change my mind and receive the vaccine at Valdosta State University Student Health Center for a minimal cost.

PRINT NAME

VSU STUDENT ID NUMBER

STUDENT SIGNATURE**

DATE

PRINT NAME

WITNESS SIGNATURE

DATE

*** If student is under age 18 at time of admission Parent/Guardian must also sign form.*

Meningococcal Information

College students are at increased risk for meningococcal disease, a potentially fatal bacterial infection commonly referred to as Meningitis. In fact, first year students living in residence halls are found to have a six-fold increased risk for the disease. The American College Health Association (ACHA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP of the CDC) recommend that college students, particularly first year students living in residence halls, learn more about Meningitis and the vaccine. At least 70% of all cases of meningococcal disease in college students are vaccine preventable.

In the state of Georgia according to House Bill 504 all students who will be residing in university owned housing provide documentation that they have received the vaccine or sign a declination statement after receiving information regarding the benefits of the meningitis vaccine. The Valdosta State University Health Center are committed to upholding this law.

What is meningococcal meningitis? Bacterial meningitis is rare. When it strikes, however, this potentially fatal bacterial disease can lead to swelling of fluid surrounding the brain and spinal column as well as severe and permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb amputation and even death.

How is it spread? Meningococcal meningitis is spread by direct contact with infected individuals (for example, sharing food, drinks or cigarettes, and kissing) or prolonged close contact with respiratory secretions (for example, sleeping in the same room).

What are the symptoms? Symptoms of meningococcal meningitis often resemble the flu and can include high fever, headache, stiff neck, rash, nausea, vomiting, lethargy and confusion.

Who is at risk? Certain college students, particularly first year students who live in residence halls, have been found to have an increased risk for meningococcal meningitis.

What should I know about the vaccine? This safe and effective vaccine is available to protect against four of the five most common strains of the disease and lasts approximately up to five years.

The CDC recommends vaccination up through age 21 years for those living in residence halls. Students who received their first shot before their 16th birthday require a 2nd (booster) shot. **Those who choose not to do so must sign a waiver (Meningococcal Vaccine Declination Form) to be in compliance.**

Adverse reactions to the meningitis vaccine are mild and infrequent, consisting primarily of redness and pain at the injection site and rarely a fever. As with any vaccine, vaccination against meningitis may not protect 100 percent of all susceptible individuals. It does not protect against viral meningitis.