

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

All students enrolling for six or more credits must be in full compliance with the New York State Immunization law, and will not be permitted to register for classes without proof of one MMR and submission of a completed meningitis form. The remaining documentation must be submitted within 30 days of the start of the semester. If the documentation is not submitted, the student will not be allowed to continue attending classes and will be dropped from his/her courses without refund (full tuition liability).

There are several ways to comply with the immunization requirements:

MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS

The New York Public Health Law requires that colleges distribute information about Meningococcal Meningitis disease and vaccination to *all* students registered for six or more credits. Students are required to decide whether or not to be immunized for Meningitis and to submit a form that formally confirms their decision. A copy of the form is provided in this booklet. The completed form should be submitted to the Registrar's Office (it can be faxed to 914-674-7516) or if you prefer, submit the information electronically through Mercy Connect <https://www.mercy.edu/vaccine> Electronic submission of the meningitis form through Mercy Connect will be accepted as your signature.

MEASLES, MUMPS, AND RUBELLA (MMR)

The New York Public Health Law requires that all college students born after December 31, 1956 who are taking six or more credits in a semester provide a certificate documenting immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) before their first term of study.

Measles: Two doses are required

1st Dose administered after the age of 12 months.

2nd Dose administered more than 30 days after the first dose and after the age of 15 months.

In the alternative, the student can present medical proof of the disease or laboratory proof of immunity (student must submit a copy of the lab report).

Mumps: One Dose

One dose administered after the age of 12 months or laboratory proof of immunity (student must submit a copy of the lab report)

Rubella: One Dose

One dose administered after the age of 12 months or laboratory proof of immunity (student must submit a copy of the lab report).

The MMR combined vaccination fulfills the requirement for one dose of measles, one mumps, and one rubella immunization; **however**, a second measles vaccine, administered at least 30 days after the first dose, is required. Because the combined vaccine was not available in the United States before January 1, 1972, no MMR immunizations administered before that date are acceptable for US students.

IMMUNIZATION SERVICES

The College provides immunization services at the Bronx and Manhattan Campuses through CHD Meridian Healthcare. If you are interested, please contact the Campus Manager for dates and times.

For more information about immunization, please contact your doctor or the NYS Department of Health website at www.health.state.ny.us

**MERCY COLLEGE
IMMUNIZATION RECORD**

Name: _____ Date: _____

Social Security # _____ Date of Birth _____

Mercy College ID # _____

I certify that the following is the immunization record of the above-named person. This record is presented in accordance with the New York State Immunization requirements for college students.

Measles (Rubeola):

Two doses of measles vaccine:
(given after 1st birthday)

Date: Dose 1 _____
Dose 2 _____

OR

Physician documented history of the disease

Date of Disease: _____

OR

Serologic evidence of immunity

Date of positive immune titer: _____

Rubella:

One dose of rubella vaccine:

Date: Dose 1 _____

OR

Serologic evidence of immunity

Date of positive immune titer: _____

Mumps:

One dose of mumps vaccine:

Date: Dose 1 _____

OR

Physician documented history of the disease

Date of Disease: _____

OR

Serologic evidence of immunity

Date of positive immune titer: _____

Medical/Religious Exemption: _____

Health Official Name (Please print):

Address:

Telephone:

Health Official's Signature

Mercy College is required by law to have all students born after December 31, 1956 in compliance. Please be advised that you will not be able to register unless your immunization records are submitted to your campus registrar's office.

**MERCY COLLEGE
MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS VACCINATION
RESPONSE FORM**

Mercy College is required to maintain a record of the following for each student:

1. A response to receipt of meningococcal disease and vaccine information signed by the student.
2. A record of meningococcal meningitis immunization within the past 10 years; or
3. An acknowledgement of meningococcal disease risks and refusal of the immunization signed by the student.

New York State Public Health Law requires that all college and university students enrolled for at least six (6) semester hours complete and return the following form to the Registrar's Office. Please check one:

I have (for students under the age of 18: My child has):

- had meningococcal meningitis immunization within the past 10 years.
Date received: _____ (Please attach proof signed by a health care provider.)

[Note: If you (your child) received the meningococcal vaccine available before February 2005 called Menomune™, please note this vaccine's protection lasts for approximately 3 to 5 years. Revaccination with the new conjugate vaccine called Menactra™ should be considered within 3-5 years after receiving Menomune™.]

- read, or have had explained to me, the information regarding meningococcal meningitis disease. I understand the risks of not receiving the vaccine. I have decided that I (my child) will **not** obtain immunization against meningococcal meningitis disease.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent / Guardian if student is a minor.)

Print Student's Name _____ Student's Date of Birth _____

Student's Mercy College ID #: _____

Student's Social Security #: _____

**ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF THIS FORM THROUGH MERCY CONNECT WILL BE
ACCEPTED AS YOUR SIGNATURE: <https://www.mercy.edu/vaccine> OR YOU CAN FAX
THIS FORM TO THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE AT 914-674-7516**

MENINGOCOCCAL INFORMATION

On July 22, 2003, Governor Pataki signed New York State Public Health Law (NYSPHL) 2167 requiring colleges and universities to distribute information about meningococcal disease and vaccination to all students meeting the enrollment criteria, whether they live on or off campus. This law became effective on August 15, 2003.

What is meningococcal disease?

Meningococcal disease is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream or meninges (a thin lining covering the brain and spinal cord) caused by the meningococcus germ.

Who gets meningococcal disease?

Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but it is more common in infants and children. For some adolescents, such as first year college students living in dormitories, there is an increased risk of meningococcal disease. Every year in the United States approximately 2,500 people are infected and 300 die from the disease. Other persons at increased risk include household contacts of a person known to have had this disease, immunocompromised people, and people traveling to parts of the world where meningococcal meningitis is prevalent.

How is the meningococcus germ spread?

The meningococcus germ is spread by direct close contact with nose or throat discharges of an infected person.

What are the symptoms?

High fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck and a rash are symptoms of meningococcal disease. The symptoms may appear 2 to 10 days after exposure, but usually within 5 days. Among people who develop meningococcal disease, 10-15% die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, permanent brain damage, hearing loss, kidney failure, loss of arms or legs, or chronic nervous system problems can occur.

What is the treatment for meningococcal disease?

Antibiotics, such as penicillin G or ceftriaxone, can be used to treat people with meningococcal disease.

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 playmates, etc.) need to be considered for preventive treatment. Such people are usually advised to obtain a prescription for a special antibiotic (either rifampin, ciprofloxacin or ceftriaxone) from their physician. Casual contact, as might occur in a regular classroom, office or factory setting, is not usually significant enough to cause concern.

Is there a vaccine to prevent meningococcal meningitis?

In February 2005 the CDC recommended a new vaccine, known as Menactra™ for use to prevent meningococcal disease in people 11-55 years of age. The previously licensed version of this vaccine, Menomune™ is available for children 2-10 years old and adults older than 55 years. Both vaccines are 85% to 100% effective in preventing the 4 kinds of the meningococcus germ (types A, C, Y, W-135). These 4 types cause about 70% of the disease in the United States. Because the vaccines do not include type B, which accounts for about one-third of cases in adolescents, they do not prevent all cases of meningococcal disease.

Is the vaccine safe? Are there adverse side effects to the vaccine?

Both vaccines are currently available and both are safe and effective vaccines. However, both vaccines may cause mild and infrequent side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days.