



INFORMATION ABOUT MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, VACCINE, AND WAIVER FORM

Student Legal Name: _____ Birth Date : _____

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that first-year college students living in residence halls should receive at least 1 dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4) before college entry. All students who will be living in campus housing must submit proof of 1 dose of meningococcal vaccine that covers serogroups A, C, Y, and W since age 16.

Under the terms of the College and University Student Vaccination Act for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, No. 2002-83, an institution of higher education shall prohibit a student from residing in a dormitory or housing unit unless the student has received a one-time vaccination against meningococcal disease, or has signed a waiver that they have received detailed information on the risks associated with meningococcal disease, the availability and the effectiveness of vaccine, and that they choose not to be vaccinated for religious or other reasons. If the student is a minor (under the age of 18 years), the student's parent or guardian must sign a written waiver stating that the parent or guardian has received and reviewed the information provided and has chosen not to have the student vaccinated for religious or other reasons against meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal disease is a rare but potentially fatal infection caused by a type of bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*. *Neisseria meningitidis* typically causes meningitis (infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) and infections of the blood (meningococemia). Meningococcal disease spreads from person to person through close contact (coughing or kissing) or lengthy contact, especially among people living in the same household.

Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but certain people are at increased risk, including adolescents and young adults 16 through 23 years old. Even when it is treated, meningococcal disease kills 10 to 15% of infected people. Of those who survive, about 15% will suffer disabilities such as hearing loss, brain damage, kidney damage, amputations, nervous system problems, or severe scars from skin grafts.

There are at least 12 types of *N. meningitidis*, called "serogroups." Serogroups B, C, and Y cause most meningococcal disease. Serogroups C, Y, or W cause the majority of meningococcal disease in the college age group. Research has shown that students residing in residence halls, particularly first year students, are at higher risk for meningococcal disease compared with college students overall.

Meningococcal conjugate vaccines can help prevent meningococcal disease caused by serogroups A, C, Y and W. A different meningococcal vaccine is available to help protect against serogroup B. Vaccination side effects are typically mild consisting of redness and soreness at the injection site lasting 1-2 days.

Waiver Request:

I have read and understand the information provided regarding the risks of meningococcal disease and the availability and effectiveness of the vaccine. I have had a chance to ask questions that were answered to my satisfaction. I believe that I understand the risks associated with meningococcal disease and the availability and effectiveness of the vaccine required. I hereby attest that I am declining, for religious or other reasons, vaccination against meningococcal disease.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Printed Name _____ Parent Signature required if student is under 18 years.