



Meningitis and Hepatitis B Legislation

Effective January 1, 2004 all public and private universities in the state of Wisconsin are required by law to provide students with information on the risks associated with Meningococcal Disease and Hepatitis B and the availability and effectiveness of vaccines against these diseases. All students living in residence halls must affirm that they have received this information and whether or not they have been vaccinated against Meningitis and/or Hepatitis B. **Neither the law nor the University requires you to have the vaccines.**

You can find information on these diseases on our Health Topics portion of our Clinical Services page. Once reviewed, please download and complete the Affirmation Statement. If you are under the age of 18, the signature of your parent is required.

Please return the completed form to:
Student Health Services
545 N. 15th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

This form must be completed and returned prior to the receipt of your residence hall room key.

Meningitis and Hepatitis B Affirmation Form

Do you know about meningococcal disease?

Do you know about Hepatitis B?

I have reviewed this information and:

I have reviewed this information and:

I intend to or have received meningococcal vaccine

I intend to or have received Hepatitis B vaccine

DATE OF VACCINATION

DATE OF VACCINATIONS

I do not intend to receive meningococcal vaccine

I do not intend to receive Hepatitis vaccine

PRINTED NAME

DATE OF BIRTH

SIGNATURE

DATE

Meningococcal disease is a rare but **serious** illness caused by bacteria that infect the blood or membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord. It can lead to brain damage, disability and death.

It is most common in infants and in people with certain medical conditions. College **freshmen** living in residence halls have a modestly increased risk of getting the disease. About 100 cases occur on college campuses in the U.S. each year, resulting in 5-15 deaths. Common **symptoms** of meningitis include stiff neck, headache, fever, sensitivity to light, sleepiness, vomiting, confusion and seizures.

Meningitis can be treated with antibiotics. However, because the disease progresses rapidly, **treatment must be started early**. Despite treatment, 10-20% of people suffer long-term consequences.

A **meningococcal vaccine** is available from your doctor or the student health service. It protects against four of the five most common types of bacteria and can prevent 50-70% of cases on college campuses.

Hepatitis B is a **serious** viral disease that attacks the liver. It can lead to lifelong infection, cirrhosis (scarring of the liver), liver cancer and death.

Hepatitis B is easier to catch than you may realize. The highest rate of disease occurs in 20-49 year olds. The virus is found mainly in blood, semen and vaginal fluid. If you come into **frequent contact** with blood or other body fluids, have unprotected sex, share needles when injecting illegal drugs or get stuck with a needle on the job, you can get infected. About one-third of people infected with Hepatitis B don't know how they got it.

Common symptoms include yellowing of the skin and eyes, abdominal pain, fatigue, diarrhea and loss of appetite. Chronic liver disease can develop.

There is no treatment for Hepatitis B infection when you first get it. **Preventing infection** is the most important.

Hepatitis B vaccine is available from your doctor or the student health service. It effectively prevents Hepatitis B disease and its serious consequences. Three doses over six months are commonly needed for complete protection,. Everyone 18 years of age and younger and adults whose behavior or occupation puts them at risk for Hepatitis B infection should be vaccinated.