



Finger Lakes Community College Student Health Services
3325 Marvin Sands Dr., Canandaigua, NY 14424
Phone: (585) 785-1297 Fax: (585) 785-1613
<https://www.flcc.edu/studenthealth/>

According to FLCC Immunization Policy and NYS Public HEALTH LAW #2165: All students must complete the meningitis section below. This information **MUST** be received in the Student Health Office prior to registration.

Please see reverse side for information on **meningococcal disease**.

If you have any questions on which option is best for you please consult your health care provider.

Students - please complete:

Student Name: _____ Student ID or Social Security #: _____

Birth Date: _____ Semester entering FLCC: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES:

_____ I have read, or have had explained to me, the information (on reverse) regarding meningococcal/meningitis disease. I understand the risks of not receiving the vaccine. I have decided that I (or my child, if under age 18) will **not** obtain immunization against meningococcal meningitis disease.

OR

_____ Menomune /Meningococcal meningitis vaccine date (within the past 10 years): _____
(must provide proof of vaccine and date)

Signed: _____
(If student is under the age of 18, parent or guardian must sign this form)

Date: _____

Meningococcal/Meningitis

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. For some such as first-year college students living in dormitories, there is an increased risk of meningococcal disease. Other persons at increased risk include (infants, children, teenagers/young adults), household contacts of a person known to have had this disease, immuno-compromised people, and people traveling to parts of the world where meningococcal meningitis is prevalent.

What are the symptoms

High fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck, rash, and weakness are symptoms of meningococcal disease. Symptoms usually appear suddenly – 3 to 4 days after a person is infected but can take up to 10 days to develop symptoms.

How is meningococcal disease spread

It spreads from person-to-person by coughing or coming into close or lengthy contact with someone who is sick or who carries the bacteria. Contact includes kissing, sharing drinks, or living together.

What are the complications

Even when it is treated, 10-15% of those who get meningococcal disease die. Among survivors, as many as 10-20% will suffer disabilities such as hearing loss, brain damage, kidney damage, loss of limbs, nervous system problems, or severe scars from skin grafts.

What is the treatment for meningococcal disease

Early diagnosis of meningococcal disease is very important. When caught early, meningococcal disease can be treated with antibiotics. Sometimes the infection causes too much damage for antibiotics to prevent death or serious long-term problems. Most people need to be cared for in a hospital due to serious, life-threatening infections.

What is the best way to prevent meningococcal disease

Presently, there is a vaccine that will protect against some of the strains of meningococcus. All teenagers should receive two doses of vaccine against strains A,C,W and Y also known as MenACWY or MCV4 vaccine. The first dose is given usually at age 11-12, and the second dose (booster) at age 16. This booster dose is important to protect teens and young adults through their college years. The vaccine can also be given during outbreak situations, and for those traveling to high risk areas. Teens and young adults can also be vaccinated against the B strain known as MenB vaccine. Menomune [sanofi Pasteur] should be used for adults ages 56 and older.

Also, Wash your hands often and avoid sharing drinks, eating utensils, or other items that may contain saliva.

How effective is the vaccine

The meningococcal vaccine has been shown to provide protection against the most common strains of the disease, including serogroups A, C, Y and W-135.

Is the vaccine safe and are there adverse side effects to the vaccine

The vaccine is very safe and adverse reactions are mild and infrequent, consisting primarily of redness and pain at the site of injection lasting up to two days. As with any medicine, there is a very remote chance of a vaccine causing a severe allergic reaction, other serious injury, or death.

How do I get more information about meningococcal disease and vaccination

Contact your physician or your student health service. * The vaccination is not available at Finger Lakes Community College. If you are interested in obtaining the vaccine, please call your primary care provider or Ontario County Health Dept., 3019 County Complex Dr., Canandaigua, NY (585)-526-5275

Additional information is also available at www.nyhealth.ny.us; www.cdc.gov/DiseasesConditions/; www.acha.org.