Fort Lewis College  
Student Health Center  
INFORMATION REGARDING  
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

Postsecondary educational institutions are required, by Colorado State Law, to provide all incoming students information about meningococcal disease (meningitis). Each new student who has not received a vaccination against meningococcal disease is required to check a box and sign (see below) to indicate that the signor has reviewed the information on meningococcal disease and has decided that the student will not obtain a vaccination to prevent meningococcal disease. If the new student is under the age of 18 years, the student’s parent or guardian must sign.

- **Meningococcal disease is a serious disease**, caused by bacteria.
- **Meningococcal disease is a contagious, but a largely preventable, infection of the spinal cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain.** Meningococcal disease can also cause blood infections.
- 10-15% of the roughly 2600 people who get meningococcal disease each year in the United States die, in spite of treatment with **antibiotics**. Of those who live, another 10 percent lose their arms or legs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous system, become mentally retarded, or suffer seizures or strokes.
- Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but it is most common in infants less than one year of age and in people with certain medical conditions. **Scientific evidence suggests that college students living in campus residence facilities are at a modestly increased risk of contracting meningococcal disease.**
- Immunization against meningococcal disease decreases the risk of contracting the disease. Meningococcal vaccine can prevent four types of meningococcal disease; these include two of the three most common in the United States. Meningococcal vaccine cannot prevent all types of the disease, but it does help to protect many people who might become sick if they do not get the vaccine.
- A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as severe allergic reactions. **The risk of the meningococcal vaccine causing serious harm, or death, is extremely small. Getting a meningococcal vaccine is much safer than getting the disease.**
- More information can be obtained from the Vaccine Information Statement available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm. Students and their parents should discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with their health care providers.

To receive the immunization against meningococcal disease, a student should check with his/her own health care provider, local health department, or, once on campus, the College Student Health Center, which offers this vaccine to all students. Call us at 970-247-7355 for cost or other information. Fax this form to 970-247-7621.

☐ **Please check to indicate that you have reviewed the information above and have decided that the student will not obtain a vaccination against meningococcal disease.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature: (student signature; parent/guardian signature if student is under 18)</th>
<th>Today’s Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student’s Full Name:</td>
<td>Birthdate:</td>
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Please return this form to: Fort Lewis College Student Health Center, 1000 Rim Drive, Miller 170, Durango, CO 81301  
Fax: (970) 247-7621  
Questions may be directed to Health Center staff: (970) 247-7355

Students may reconsider at any time and obtain the vaccine at the Student Health Center.