



Vaccination Policy

Lourdes University does not require immunizations for admittance to the University. The University strongly recommends that you receive all of the following immunizations:

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR): Two doses of MMR at least 28 days apart after 12 months of age

Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (DT, Tdap, DTP, or TD): Booster dose within the past 10 years

Hepatitis B: Series of 3 doses (Students participating in programs related to health, education, or studying abroad, may be required to be immunized against Hepatitis A and B).

Meningitis Vaccine (Menactra): University populations are considered at increased risk, including students living in residence halls.

Policy regarding student Meningitis and Hepatitis B

Ohio Revised Code Section 3345.85 for institutions of higher education requires that the institution maintain individual status records on meningococcal meningitis and Hepatitis B vaccinations for student living in on-campus housing. The **Lourdes University Residence Hall Contract** contains a section asking for the vaccination status of a student who will be living in a residence hall. A housing contract will not be accepted if this information is not completed.

The Ohio Revised Coded (ORC) Section 1713.55 states that beginning with the academic year that commences on or after July 1, 2005, an institution of higher education shall not permit a student to reside in on-campus housing unless the student (or parent if the student is younger than 18 years of age) discloses whether the student has been vaccinated against meningococcal disease and hepatitis B by submitting a meningitis and hepatitis B vaccination status statement.

MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Meningococcal disease is a serious illness caused by bacteria. It is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2-18 years of age in the United States. Meningococcal bacteria can cause meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord) or sepsis (an infection of the bloodstream). Symptoms of meningitis include stiff neck, headache, fever, nausea, vomiting, confusion and drowsiness. Symptoms of sepsis include fever, shock and coma. Death from sepsis can occur within

12 hours of the beginning of the illness – meningococcal disease can be a rapid and overwhelming infectious disease. For these reasons, meningococcal infections that occur in childcare centers, elementary schools, high schools and Universities often cause panic in the community. Every year about 2,600 people in the United States are infected with meningococcus. Ten to fifteen percent of these people die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, another ten percent lose their arms or legs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous systems, become mentally retarded or suffer seizures or strokes.

How do you catch a meningococcal infection?

Usually meningococcal infection is acquired after intimate contact with an infected person. Intimate contact includes kissing, sharing toothbrushes or eating utensils or frequently eating or sleeping in the same dwelling as an infected individual.

Who is at risk?

Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but it is most common in infants less than 1 year of age and in people with certain medical conditions. University first year students, particularly those who live in dormitories, have a slightly increased risk of getting meningococcal disease. The risk for meningococcal disease among non-first year University students is similar to that for the general population; however, the vaccine is safe and effective and therefore can be provided to non-first year undergraduates who want to reduce their risk for meningococcal disease.

What can be done to decrease risk?

The meningococcal vaccine can prevent four types of meningococcal disease. These include two of the three most common types in the United States. Meningococcal vaccine cannot prevent all types of the disease, but it does help to protect people who might become sick if they don't get the vaccine. The vaccine is available through a variety of settings including physician offices and university/college student health centers.

What about the vaccine?

A vaccine, like any other medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as allergic reactions. People should not get meningococcal vaccine if they have ever had a serious allergic reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine. Some people who get the vaccine may develop redness or pain where the shot was given, and a small percentage of people develop a fever. These symptoms usually last for one or two days. The risk of the meningococcal vaccine causing serious harm is extremely small. Getting meningococcal vaccine is safer than getting the disease. People who are mildly ill at the time the shot is scheduled and women who are pregnant can still get the vaccine. Those with moderate or severe illnesses should usually wait until they recover. University students and their parents should discuss the timing, risks and benefits of vaccination with their health care providers. For more information about the meningococcal vaccine access the Vaccine Information Sheet at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web site <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS>. If University students decide to be

vaccinated against meningococcal meningitis, they (or their parents if they are less than 18 years of age) should contact their health care provider or the university/college student health center where they will be attending to inquire about receiving the vaccine. Although the need for revaccination with the current polysaccharide vaccine has not been determined, antibody levels rapidly decline in two to three years, and if indications still exist for vaccination, revaccination may be considered three to five years after receipt of the first dose. In February 2005 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to the CDC recommended the use of a newly licensed conjugate meningococcal vaccine for vaccination against meningococcal meningitis. The new vaccine was licensed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in January 2005 for use in people 11-55 years of age. This conjugate meningococcal vaccine is effective in preventing the same four types of meningococcal disease as the polysaccharide meningococcal vaccine. Although the need for revaccination with the conjugate meningococcal vaccine has not been determined, antibody levels decline in 6-8 years and if indications still exist for vaccination, revaccination may be considered 6-8 years after receipt of the first dose.

Adapted from CDC publications.

HEPATITIS B AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Hepatitis B is a virus that affects the liver. It is one of several hepatitis diseases (for example, hepatitis A and hepatitis C) that are caused by different viruses but are similar in that they all attack the liver. The hepatitis B virus (HBV) can cause a short-term (acute) illness that leads to loss of appetite, stomach pain, tiredness, diarrhea, vomiting, jaundice (yellow skin or eyes) and pain in muscles and joints. These symptoms can last for several weeks. It can also cause a long-term (chronic) illness from which people never recover. A person might not look or feel sick, but he or she carries the hepatitis B virus in their blood for the rest of their lives and can infect other people with HBV. Chronic hepatitis B may cause liver damage (cirrhosis), liver cancer and even death. About 1.25 million people in the United States have chronic HBV infection. Each year 80,000 more people, **mostly young adults**, get infected with HBV and 4,000 to 5,000 people die from chronic hepatitis B.

How do you catch Hepatitis B?

HBV virus is spread through contact with blood or other body fluids of an infected person. You can catch the virus by having unprotected sex, by sharing drug needles or by sharing personal items such as razors and toothbrushes with someone who is infected. Babies of chronic HBV mothers can become infected during birth. Children can be infected through exposure to blood and other body fluids from infected children or adults.

Who is at risk?

Anyone who participates in any of the behaviors listed above is at risk of acquiring hepatitis B.

What can be done?

There are hepatitis B vaccines available that can prevent infection with HBV. Many physicians offer the vaccine to patients seen in their offices. These are the first anti-cancer vaccines, because they can prevent a form of liver cancer that can develop in a person who gets a chronic hepatitis B infection.

What about the vaccine?

A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems, such as allergic reactions. Most people who get hepatitis B vaccine do not have any problems with it. People who have ever had a life-threatening allergic reaction to baker's yeast (the kind used to make bread) or to a previous dose of hepatitis B vaccine should not get the vaccine. People who are moderately to severely ill at the time the shot is scheduled should usually wait until they recover before getting the vaccine. Hepatitis B vaccine is very safe and the risk of it causing serious harm is extremely small. Hepatitis is a serious disease and getting the vaccine is safer than getting the disease. University students and their parents should discuss the risks and the benefits of vaccination with their health care providers. For more information about the hepatitis vaccine, access the Vaccine Information Sheet at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site <http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS>. If University students decide to be vaccinated against hepatitis B, they (or their parents if they are less than 18 years of age) should contact their health care provider or the university/college student health center where they will be attending to inquire about receiving the vaccine.

Adapted from CDC publications.

Lourdes University

Meningococcal and Hepatitis B Vaccination Status Form

Name of Student: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____

I, the undersigned student (if 18 years of age or older) or parent (if student is under 18), have read and understand the information provided to me about Meningococcal Meningitis and Hepatitis B. I understand the benefits and risks of being vaccinated against these diseases. The information below regarding my/my student's vaccination status is accurate and is being provided in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code, Section 3701.133, (B).

Meningococcal vaccine received: Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please list the date: ____/____/____

Hepatitis B vaccine received: Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please list the dates: 1st Dose ____/____/____

2nd Dose ____/____/____

3rd Dose ____/____/____

Date: ____/____/____

Signature (Student/Parent):

Address of Student
