

# Colorado Christian UNIVERSITY

## Meningococcal Disease Information

For all public or nonpublic postsecondary education institutions in Colorado, the state law requires that on and after July 1, 2005 each incoming freshman student residing in student housing, as defined by the institution, or any student who the institution requires to complete and return a standard certificate indicating immunizations received by the student as a requirement for residing in student housing, be provided with the information below. If the student is under the age of 18 years, the student's parent or guardian must be provided with this information.

- Meningococcal disease is a serious disease, caused by bacteria
- Meningococcal disease is a contagious, but largely preventable, infection of the spinal cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain. Meningococcal disease can also cause blood infections.
- 2,600 people get meningococcal disease each year in the United States; 10-15 percent of these people 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 dormitory facilities are at 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. To ensure optimal protection against the disease, it is important that incoming students receive the vaccine within 5 years of their enrollment date.
- 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/nip/publications/VIS](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/VIS). Students and their parents should discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with their health care providers.

To receive the immunization against meningococcal disease, students should check with their own health care provider or their local health department (for a list of the local public agencies in Colorado, go to [www.cdphe.state.co.us/as/locallist.asp](http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/as/locallist.asp)). The institution itself may offer the vaccine at the beginning and during the school year or may know of other nearby locations.

On and after July 1, 2005 each institution must require each new student who has not received a vaccination against meningococcal disease, or, if the new student is under the age of 18 years, the student's parent or guardian, 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 new student will not obtain a vaccination against meningococcal disease. Additionally, this form must be signed if the student has not received a dose of the Meningitis vaccine within 5 years of their enrollment date and does not wish to receive a booster dose.

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

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>DATE OF BIRTH:</b>	<b>STUDENT ID#:</b>
<b>PRINTED NAME OF STUDENT:</b>		
<b>SIGNATURE (student or parent/guardian, if student is under the age of 18 years):</b>		