



INDIANA UNIVERSITY

HEALTH CENTER

Bloomington

Meningococcal Vaccine Information

June 2017

Dear Student and Parent or Guardian:

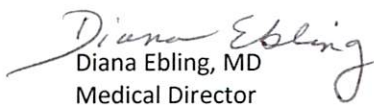
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends all persons 11-18 years of age receive the quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine (MCV4: Menactra or Menveo). This vaccine protects against meningococcal serogroups A, C, W and Y. Indiana requires this vaccine for school entry for grades 6-12. If not previously vaccinated, all college freshmen living in the dormitories should receive the vaccine. In October 2010, new recommendations by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended a booster shot at age 16 if vaccinated between the ages of 11 and 15, and especially **prior to college entry if younger than 21 years old**. The CDC further states:

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness. It is a leading cause of **bacterial meningitis** in children 2 through 18 years old in the United States. Meningitis is an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Meningococcal disease also causes blood infections. About 1,200 people get meningococcal disease each year in the U.S. Even when they are treated with antibiotics, 10% to 15% of these people die. Of those who survive, another 11-19% lose their arms or legs, become deaf, have problems with their nervous systems, or suffer seizures or strokes. Anyone can get meningococcal disease. But it is most common in infants less than one year of age and children with certain medical conditions, such as lack of a spleen. **College freshmen who live in dormitories and people 16 to 21 years old have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease.**

The Indiana University Health Center (IUHC) supports these recommendations. Meningococcal vaccine is not an Indiana University-Bloomington (IU-B) requirement, but reading about it and the disease must be checked on the Registrar's web site listed below.

In 2014 the FDA approved another meningococcal vaccine, Bexsero or Trumenba, that protects against meningococcal serogroup B. Teens and young adults should be vaccinated with this also if they are at increased risk for meningococcal disease, such as those with certain immune deficiencies, sickle cell disease or lack a spleen. For all others it is considered an option.

IU-B requires vaccinations for measles, rubella, mumps, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, chicken pox (if you have not had chicken pox disease) for all students plus tuberculosis testing in the U.S. for international students. Specifics are listed on the Office of the Registrar's web site: www.registrar.indiana.edu and must be reported there. Other important vaccines recommended for college health include hepatitis B, HPV and an annual influenza vaccine (flu shot). IU-B students may obtain any of these vaccinations and the meningococcal vaccines by scheduling an appointment with the IUHC Immunization Clinic, 812-855-7688. If you have additional questions or concerns, please call the IUHC at 812-855-5002 or ask your local medical provider.


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