



# INDIANA UNIVERSITY

HEALTH CENTER  
Bloomington

Vaccine Information

May 2018

Dear Student and Parent or Guardian:

What is meningococcal meningitis?

Meningococcal meningitis is a bacterial form of meningitis, an infection of the thin lining that surrounds the brain and spinal cord. While rare, the condition is very serious and can be deadly. If untreated it can have a fatality rate up to 50% (10-15% if properly treated) and death can occur in as little as a few hours.

There are several types of bacteria that can cause meningitis. The predominant bacterium of concern for adolescents and young adults is called *Neisseria meningitides*. There are at least 12 types of *N. meningitides*, called 'serogroups'. Serogroups A, B, C, W and Y cause most meningococcal disease. Adolescents and young adults 16 through 23 years old are considered at an increased risk for the disease.

Why is IU adding meningococcal immunizations to their requirements for first year students?

The Indiana General Assembly passed a law in 2017 that takes effect beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. The law requires universities with residential campuses to include meningitis immunization in their immunization standards. This new law will further promote public health and prevent disease in our university community. IU is requiring immunizations that cover the MenACWY (also known as MCV4) and MenB serogroups.

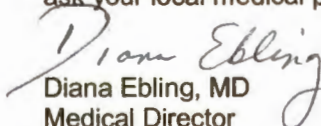
Who else is doing this?

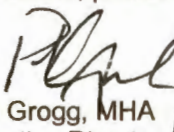
All residential universities in Indiana will have to require some form of a meningitis immunization. Most states, including Indiana, currently require the MenACWY (MCV4) immunization in high schools. MenB is currently a recommended immunization for 12<sup>th</sup> graders in Indiana and may be a requirement in the near future. In recent years the majority of meningococcal meningitis infections in Indiana have been serogroup B (72%). Therefore, IU and other major universities are now requiring MenB immunizations. This new requirement will help prevent infections in the university community.

How will this impact students?

Under the new requirements, first year students aged 21 or younger will have to be immunized with one dose of MenACWY (MCV4) on or after their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Additionally, first year students aged 23 or younger will have to be immunized with two doses of MenB.

In addition, IU requires vaccinations for measles, rubella, mumps, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis and chicken pox (unless you have physician documentation of prior disease) for all students plus tuberculosis testing in the U.S. for international students. Specifics are listed at <https://usss.iu.edu/student-records/immunization/index.html> and must be reported on the Immunization Compliance Form. Other important vaccines recommended for college health include hepatitis B, HPV and an annual flu vaccine. IU-B students may obtain any of these vaccinations and the meningococcal vaccines through their primary care physician, local clinic or 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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