

Meningococcal: Information & Waiver



INFORMATION ABOUT THE DISEASE, VACCINES, REQUIREMENTS, AND THE WAIVER FOR STUDENTS AT COLLEGES AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

The following document, [Meningococcal Disease and Students: Commonly Asked Questions](#), is provided by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH) and fulfills the requirement for [221.300: Dissemination of Information about Meningococcal Disease and Vaccine](#).

As part of the regulation, students of private and public secondary schools, colleges, and universities are informed of the risks of meningococcal disease.

- **Colleges:** Massachusetts requires all newly enrolled full-time students 21 years of age and under attending a postsecondary institution (e.g., college) to receive a dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine on or after their 16th birthday to protect against serotypes A, C, W, and Y, or fall within one of the exemptions in the law.
- **Residential Schools:** Massachusetts requires all newly enrolled full-time students attending a secondary school who will be living in a dormitory or other congregate housing licensed or approved by the secondary school or institution (e.g., boarding school) to receive the quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine to protect against serotypes A, C, W, and Y or fall within one of the exemptions in the law.

The law provides an exemption for students signing a waiver that reviews the dangers of meningococcal disease and indicates that the vaccination has been declined. To qualify for this exemption, you are required to review the information below and sign the waiver at the end of this document. Please note that if a student is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must be given a copy of this document and must sign the waiver.

Waiver for Meningococcal Vaccination Requirement

I have received and reviewed the information provided on the risks of meningococcal disease and the risks and benefits of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine. I understand that Massachusetts law requires newly enrolled full-time students at secondary schools who are living in a dormitory or congregate living arrangement licensed or approved by the secondary school and newly enrolled full-time students at colleges and universities who are 21 years of age or younger to receive meningococcal vaccinations unless the students provide a signed waiver of the vaccination or otherwise qualify for one of the exemptions specified in the law.

After reviewing the materials above on the dangers of meningococcal disease, I choose to waive receipt of the meningococcal vaccine.

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Student ID: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____
(Student or parent/legal guardian if the student is under 18 years of age)

You may also contact your healthcare provider, local board of health, or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) Divisions of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800 or visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/school-immunizations>. For additional information beyond what is provided and approved by the MA DPH, please visit the CDC's website: [Meningococcal Disease Surveillance and Trends | Meningococcal | CDC](#).