



## EXEMPTIONS AND WAIVERS

### Meningitis Health Information Facts, Policy and Waiver Information, University Of Kansas - Lawrence Campus

To reduce the spread of bacterial meningitis among the student population, the Kansas Board of Regents requires all incoming students residing in university housing to be vaccinated for meningitis or to sign a waiver indicating that they refuse to receive the vaccine. Non-compliant students will be placed on administrative hold (Enroll and Pay Negative Service Indicator) following the first week of classes and remain on administrative hold until the compliance is documented with Student Health Services. Students will be unable to enroll for the following semester until the hold is released. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that students living in other forms of group housing such as sorority/fraternity houses, Naismith Hall, etc. receive the vaccination. The KU Lawrence campus encourages all other students to consider vaccination as well as to become knowledgeable about meningitis and its symptoms in order to reduce their personal risk. The vaccine is available at Watkins Memorial Health Center.

#### What is meningococcal meningitis?

Meningococcal meningitis is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream and meninges (a thin lining covering the brain and spinal cord). It is a relatively rare disease and usually occurs as a single isolated event. Clusters of cases or outbreaks are also possible.

#### Who gets meningococcal meningitis?

Anyone can get meningococcal meningitis, but it is more common in infants, children, and young adults. Also, college freshmen who live in dormitories have a slightly higher risk of getting this infection than others their age.

#### How is the germ that causes this type of meningitis spread?

The meningococcus germ is spread by direct close contact with nose or throat discharges of an infected person. Many people carry this particular germ in their nose and throat without any signs of illness, while others may develop serious symptoms.

#### What are the symptoms?

Although most people exposed to the meningococcus germ do not become seriously ill, some may develop fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck and a rash. Up to 25 percent of patients who recover may have permanent damage to the nervous system. The disease occasionally causes death.

#### How soon do the symptoms appear?

The symptoms may appear two to 10 days after exposure, but usually within five days.

#### When and for how long is an infected person able to spread the disease?

From the time a person is first infected until the germ is no longer present in discharges from the nose and throat, he or she may transmit the disease. The duration varies among individuals and with the treatment used.

#### What is the treatment for meningococcal meningitis?

Certain antibiotics are very effective in eliminating the germ from the nose and throat. Penicillin is the drug of choice for meningitis.

#### Should people who have been in contact with a diagnosed case of meningococcal meningitis be treated?

Only people who have been in close contact (household members, intimate contacts, health care personnel performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, day care center play-mates) need to be considered for preventive treatment. Such people are usually advised to obtain a prescription for rifampin from their physician. Casual contact as might occur in a regular classroom, office or factory setting is not usually significant enough to cause concern. People who think they have been exposed to meningococcal infection should contact their local health department to discuss whether they should receive preventive treatment.

#### Is there a vaccine to prevent meningococcal meningitis?

Presently, there are two vaccines that will protect against several of the strains of the meningococcus germ.

### **WAIVER OF MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS IMMUNIZATION (DOES NOT RECEIVE VACCINATION)**

**I have chosen not to be immunized.** My signature below signifies that I have received and read the material provided to me on meningitis by The University of Kansas.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Student) - **REQUIRED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(ID Number)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Parent of Guardian, if student is under 18 years of age)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## **12 STATEMENT OF EXEMPTION TO MEASLES MUMPS RUBELLA IMMUNIZATION**

If your personal or religious beliefs or a specific medical condition preclude inoculation, you must sign one of the following waivers. In the event of an outbreak, exempted persons will be subject to exclusion from school and/or quarantine.

#### **MEDICAL EXEMPTION TO MEASLES MUMPS RUBELLA IMMUNIZATION**

The physical condition of the above named person is such that immunization would endanger life or health, or is medically contraindicated due to other medical conditions. Please specify physical or medical condition:

\_\_\_\_\_  
MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
BUSINESS PHONE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

#### **TEMPORARY MEDICAL EXEMPTION TO MEASLES MUMPS RUBELLA IMMUNIZATION**

Pregnancy is justification for a temporary medical exemption only. **Are you pregnant?**  YES — **Expected Due Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
KU ID NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

#### **RELIGIOUS/PERSONAL EXEMPTION TO MEASLES MUMPS RUBELLA IMMUNIZATION**

Parent or guardian of the above named person or the person himself/herself adheres to a religious or personal belief opposed to immunizations.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
KU ID NUMBER

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE