

## **Immunization Requirements**

Wisconsin colleges and universities are required by state statute to provide all enrolled students each year detailed information about meningococcal disease and hepatitis B and the availability and effectiveness of vaccines against these diseases.

The College of Menominee Nation is not required to follow state statute, but would like to inform the students of this requirement as it may affect your health and safety.

## **Meningococcal Disease and Vaccine**

The conjugated meningococcal vaccine has the potential to provide longer duration of protection than the polysaccharide meningococcal vaccine against four of the five strains (or types) of bacteria that cause meningococcal disease – types A, C, Y, and W-135.

Meningococcal disease is a potentially life-threatening bacterial infection that can lead to meningococcal meningitis, an inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord, or meningococcal septicemia, an infection of the blood.

Meningococcal disease, caused by bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis*, is the leading cause of bacterial meningitis in older children and young adults in the United States. It strikes 1,400 to 3,000 Americans each year and is responsible for approximately 150 to 300 deaths.

Adolescents and young adults account for nearly 30 percent of all cases of meningitis in the United States. In addition, approximately 100 to 125 cases of meningococcal disease occur on college campuses each year, and five to 15 students will die as a result. Evidence shows approximately 70 to 80 percent of cases in the college age group are caused by serogroup C, Y, or W-135, which are potentially vaccine-preventable.

Due to lifestyle factors, such as crowded living situations, bar patronage, active or passive smoking, irregular sleep patterns, and sharing of personal items, college students living in residence halls are more likely to acquire meningococcal disease than the general college population.

Meningococcal infection is contagious, and progresses very rapidly. It can easily be misdiagnosed as the flu, and, if not treated early, meningitis can lead to death or permanent disabilities. One in five of those who survive will suffer from long-term side effects, such as brain damage, hearing loss, seizures, or limb amputation.

**For more information on meningococcal disease and vaccination, check out the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)**

## **Hepatitis B Disease and Vaccine**

Hepatitis B is a serious and contagious viral infection that attacks the liver and may lead to acute disease, chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, or liver cancer. It is a major health problem in the United States infecting more than 1 million people.

You can get the infection through contact with blood or body fluids from an infected person. Hepatitis B is a hardy virus that can live for more than a week in dried blood or body fluids on clothes or other surfaces. Common ways of getting the disease include: a) through sexual contact (100 times more contagious than HIV spread sexually); b) through the eyes or mouth by exposure to blood or other body fluids; c) through the skin by way of cuts, scrapes, needle sticks or needle sharing; and, d) through contact between an infected mother and her newborn child during birth and early infancy.

Although there is no specific treatment for acute hepatitis B, there are safe and effective vaccines available to help prevent infection. The vaccination series consists of three shots given over a 6 month period of time. The vaccine is 90% effective for adults and 95% effective for infants, children, and adolescents who complete the three-dose vaccination series.

**For more information on Hepatitis B** and the vaccine, please check out the [Centers for Disease Control's \(CDC\)](#)

If you have received vaccines but are unsure of the details, many states now have vaccine registries with public access for you to view your vaccine history. If you have received vaccines in Wisconsin access the Wisconsin Immunization Registry at <http://dhs.wi.gov/immunization/publicaccess.htm>.

If your immunizations are incomplete, see your healthcare provider or local health department to get any recommended immunizations.