



MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS VACCINATION RESPONSE FORM

REQUIRED BY ALL STUDENTS ATTENDING TEXAS ELS LANGUAGE CENTERS

Texas State Public Health Law¹ requires ALL students under the age of 22, including transfer students, to be immunized against bacterial meningitis at least ten (10) days before the start of school. You will not be allowed to attend classes or check-in at ELS housing until you have the documentation of the proper immunization. ***Please complete the following form and send a copy (fax or email) directly to the ELS Center in Texas you will attend.*** This form must be received 10 days before the first day of the session in which you will begin your studies, or 2 weeks before arrival for any students in on-campus housing.

Please check and sign below.

I have (for students under the age of 18: My child has):

_____ had the meningococcal meningitis immunization (eg. Menomune® or Menactra®) within the past 5 years.

DATE VACCINATION GIVEN

PRINTED NAME OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

SIGNATURE OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDER

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT (IF 18 OR OLDER)/PARENT/ GUARDIAN (IF STUDENT IS A MINOR)

DATE

PRINT STUDENT'S NAME

STUDENT DATE OF BIRTH

STUDENT EMAIL ADDRESS

STUDENT PHONE NUMBER

STREET ADDRESS

APARTMENT

CITY

STATE/PROVINCE

POSTAL CODE COUNTRY

You must bring the original completed form with you and present to ELS Language Centers prior to or on Registration Day.

¹State law effective January 1, 2012

(OFFICE USE ONLY)

ELS Student ID: _____

Center: _____



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASES (MENINGITIS)

Q: What is meningococcal disease?

A: Meningococcal disease is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream or meninges (a thin lining covering the brain and spinal cord.)

Q: Who gets meningococcal disease?

A: Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but it is more common in infants and children. For some college students, such as new students living in the dormitory, there is an increased risk of meningococcal disease.

Q: How is the germ meningococcus spread?

A: 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 noses and throat without any signs of illness, while others may develop serious symptoms.

Q: What are the symptoms?

A: High fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck, and a rash are symptoms of meningococcal disease. Among people who develop meningococcal disease, ten to 15 percent die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, permanent brain damage, hearing loss, kidney failure, loss of arms or legs, or chronic nervous system problems can occur.

Q: How soon do the symptoms appear?

A: The symptoms may appear two to ten days after exposure, but usually within five days.

Q: What is the treatment for meningococcal disease?

A: Antibiotics, such as penicillin G or ceftriaxone, can be used to treat people with meningococcal disease.

Q: Is there a vaccine to prevent meningococcal meningitis?

A: Yes, a safe and effective vaccine is available. The vaccine is eighty-five percent to one hundred percent effective in preventing four kinds of bacteria (serogroups A, C, Y, W-135) that cause about seventy percent of the disease in the United States. The vaccine is safe, with mild and infrequent side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days. After vaccination, immunity develops within seven to ten days and remains effective for approximately three to five years. As with any vaccine, a vaccine against meningitis may not protect one hundred percent of all susceptible individuals.

Q: What if I cannot have the vaccine for medical reasons or for reasons of conscience?

A: Contact your family physician to obtain medical records and/or affidavits that receiving the vaccine is a risk to your health. If you cannot take the vaccine for reasons of conscience, you must submit a request to the Texas Department of State Health Services at <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/>

Q: How do I get more information about meningococcal disease and vaccination?

A: Contact your family physician. Additional information is also available on the Web sites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/NCIDOD/DBMD/DISEASEINFO, and the American College Health Association at <http://acha.org/>.

Q: What documents are accepted as evidence of vaccination?

A: In addition to this completed form, one of the following documents must be provided to the ELS Center:

- A letter that indicates the month, day, and year of the immunization with the signature stamp of the physician or his/her designee; OR
- An official immunization record generated from a local health department, translated into English.