

**University of Tennessee
Graduate Medical Education**

MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINATION WAIVER FORM

Meningococcal disease is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection, expressed as either meningitis (infection of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord) or meningococemia (bacteria in the blood). Meningococcal disease strikes about 3,000 Americans each year and is responsible for about 300 deaths annually.

Approximately 100 to 125 cases of meningococcal disease occur annually on college campuses and five to 15 students die as a result. Research has shown that students residing in dormitories appear to be at higher risk for meningococcal disease than college students overall. Further research shows freshmen living in dormitories have a six times higher risk of meningococcal disease than college students overall.

Meningococcal vaccine provides protection against the most common strains of the disease, including serogroups A, C, Y and W-135. The vaccine is very safe and adverse reactions are mild and infrequent, consisting primarily of redness and pain at the site of injection lasting up to two days.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that college freshmen (particularly those who live in dormitories or residence halls) be informed about meningococcal disease and the benefits of vaccination, and that students who wish to reduce their risk for meningococcal disease be immunized.

MENINGOCOCCAL WAIVER

I have read the above information about the risks of meningococcal disease and the benefits of immunization. I hereby attest that I am declining immunization at this time. I understand that if I complete clinical hours in an agency that requires the Meningococcal vaccine that I will have to obtain this vaccination prior to participating in clinical hours at that agency.

Resident/Fellow Printed Name

Date

Resident/Fellow Signature