

As a result of legislation enacted by the state legislature in July 2002, students living in campus housing are required to receive a vaccination for bacterial meningitis as a condition precedent to living on campus or sign a waiver in which they acknowledge that they understand the dangers relating to this potentially life threatening disease. Please call your health care provider immediately to receive this immunization. Proof of immunization must be provided to the Gable Health Center prior to admittance to campus housing.

- **What is meningococcal meningitis?** – Meningitis is a disease that can lead to swelling of the brain and spinal column and can cause permanent disabilities such as hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb amputation and even death.
- **How is it spread?** – Meningococcal meningitis is spread through the air via respiratory secretions or close contact with an infected person. This can include coughing, sneezing, kissing or sharing items like utensils, cigarettes and drinking glasses.
- **What are the symptoms?** – Symptoms of meningococcal meningitis often resemble the flu and can include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, rash, nausea, vomiting, lethargy, confusion and sensitivity to light.
- **Who is at risk?** – Young adults (15 to 24 years of age). College students have a greater risk of meningococcal infection than the general population because of activities that are often part of college life.
- **Can meningitis be prevented?** – Yes. A safe and effective vaccine is available to protect against four of the five most common strains of the disease. The vaccine provides protection for approximately three to five years. Adverse reactions to the meningitis vaccine are mild and infrequent, consisting primarily of redness and pain at the injection site and rarely a fever. As with any vaccine, vaccination against meningitis may not protect 100% of all susceptible individuals. The vaccine does not protect against viral meningitis.

For more information- To learn more about meningitis and the vaccine, visit the Gable Health Center or call (610) 921-7532. You may also visit the websites of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at: <http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/about/faq.html> and the American College Health Association (ACHA) at www.acha.org. Your meningitis vaccination information must be provided to the Gable Health Center prior to your entrance into housing.

If you are declining vaccination due to medical or religious reasons please sign and date below and return to the Gable Health Center.

If you are unable to receive the meningococcal vaccine at your health care provider, please call the Gable Health Center at (610) 921-7532.

Thank you,
Joshua Williamson, M.D.
College Physician
Gable Health Center
Albright College

I understand that by signing this waiver, I am declaring that I have read and clearly understand the information about meningitis and the dangers relating to this disease and I have chosen to decline the meningitis vaccine at this time.

Print Name

Signature of Student

Date

Social Security Number

Signature of Parent

Date