Off To College? Washington State Department of Health





Make sure you are up to date on your meningococcal vaccines. Vaccination is your best shot at preventing meningococcal disease.

You need two vaccines that protect against several kinds of meningococcal disease.

Ask your doctor which meningococcal vaccines you need if you:

- Are a college student living in a residence hall.
- Plan to travel to countries where meningococcal disease is common.
- Have a weakened immune system.

Meningococcal A, C, W, Y vaccine (MCV4) is a vaccine for all children aged 11 to 12 years with a booster for teens aged 16 to 18 years. Serogroups A, C, W, and Y cause most meningococcal disease.

Meningococcal B vaccine (MenB)

protects against serogroup B, and should be given to teens and adults aged 16 to 23 who have rare health problems or are at risk because of a meningococcal B disease outbreak. Talk with your doctor to see if you should get this vaccine.



QUICK FACTS

- Meningococcal disease is a concern on college campuses, especially for students living in residence halls
- It is spread by close contact such as coughing, kissing, or sharing anything by mouth like lip balm, or toothbrushes.
- Call your doctor right away if you have signs of meningococcal disease including stiff neck, headache, fever, sensitivity to light, and confusion.

Don't forget your COVID-19 and flu vaccinations!