



Meningococcal Meningitis Vaccine Verification or Waiver

Meningitis vaccination is recommended by the American College Health Association. Georgia Law requires that postsecondary schools provide students with information about meningococcal disease and vaccination. Students are required to complete a document (with signatures) acknowledging that they have received this information.

- Meningococcal disease is a serious disease that can lead to death within only a few hours of onset; one in ten cases is fatal; and one in seven survivors of the disease is left with a severe disability, such as the loss of a limb, mental retardation, paralysis, deafness, or seizures.
- Meningococcal disease is contagious but largely preventable infection of the spinal cord fluid and the fluid that surrounds the brain.
- Scientific evidence suggests that college students living in residence halls are at an increased risk of contracting meningococcal disease.
- Immunization against meningococcal disease will decrease the risk of the disease.
- The meningococcal meningitis vaccine is 85 to 100 percent effective against four of the five most common strains of the bacteria that cause meningococcal meningitis. Studies show that up to 80 percent of cases on college campuses are vaccine preventable.

I, _____ received and reviewed the information provided by Wesleyan College regarding meningococcal disease. I am fully aware of the risks associated with meningococcal disease and of the availability and effectiveness of the vaccinations against the disease.

I have received a meningitis vaccination within the past 2 years: Yes _____ No _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

Signature of Parent (if student is under 18) _____ Date _____

I, _____ knowingly decided not to receive a vaccination against meningococcal disease for (please state reason): _____

Student's Signature _____ Date _____

To learn more about meningitis and vaccine, visit the web sites of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo; the American College Health Association, www.acha.org; and, the National Meningitis Association, www.nmaus.org/index2.htm. If you have questions call the Wesleyan College Health Center (478)757-4025.