

HUDSON VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PARENT LETTER

Dear Parent:

As the college health service director at Hudson Valley Community College, I am writing to inform you about meningococcal disease, a potentially fatal bacterial infection commonly referred to as meningitis. New York State Public Health Law (NYS PHL) §2167 requires institutions, including colleges and universities, to distribute information about meningococcal disease and vaccine to all students meeting the enrollment criteria, whether they live on or off campus.

Hudson Valley Community College is required to maintain a record of the following for each student:

A response to receipt of meningococcal disease and vaccine information signed by the student or student's parent or guardian

AND EITHER

A record of meningococcal immunization within the past 5 years; OR

An acknowledgement of meningococcal disease risks and refusal of meningococcal immunization signed by the student or student's parent or guardian.

Meningococcal disease is rare. However, when it strikes, its flu-like symptoms make diagnosis difficult. Meningococcal disease can cause serious illnesses such as infection of the lining of the brain and spinal column (meningitis) or blood infections (sepsis). The disease strikes

may choose to receive the MenB vaccine series. They should discuss the MenB vaccine with a healthcare provider.

All private insurance plans not grandfathered under the Affordable Care Act are required to cover the cost of MenACWY and MenB vaccines. Contact your health insurance plan to determine whether it covers MenACWY and MenB vaccines. The federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) and NYS Vaccines for Adults (VFA) programs will cover both MenACWY and MenB vaccines for children and adults who have no health insurance or whose health insurance does not cover these vaccines, as well as for children less than 19 years of age who are American Indian or Alaska Native or eligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

Hudson Valley Community College does not offer the Meningitis Vaccine at this time. We do not *PARTICIPATES IN VFC AND/OR VFA.*

For Local County Health Departments immunization clinic Schedule and pricing go to www.hvcc.edu/healthservices/immunizationclinics.html

Please carefully review the attached Meningococcal Disease Fact Sheet. It is also available on the New York State Department of Health website at www.health.ny.gov/publications/2168.pdf.

Please complete the Meningococcal Vaccination Response Form and return it to

Please return you Meningitis self-reporting for 30 days prior to the start of the semester.

NOTE: PER PUBLIC HEALTH LAW, NO INSTITUTION SHOULD PERMIT ANY STUDENT TO ATTEND THE INSTITUTION IN EXCESS OF 30 DAYS WITHOUT COMPLYING WITH THIS LAW.

To learn more about meningococcal disease and the vaccine, please feel free to contact our health service and/or consult your child's physician. You can also find information about the disease on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at

www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/.

Sincerely,

Claudine Potvin- Giordano MA, BSN, RN
Hudson Valley Community College

Attachment: [New York State Department of Health Meningococcal Disease Fact Sheet](#)