

Name: _____

Seward County Community College Student Housing

Mandatory Meningococcal Vaccine Tracking

In accordance with Kansas State Law HB-2752

Under Kansas State Law (HB2752), students enrolled at Seward County Community College and required to provide written proof of documentation of meningitis vaccination or decline the vaccine in writing after reviewing the information provided that informs of the dangers of the meningococcal disease. If the student is under the age of 18, parents or legal guardians must sign the declination form. Student who do not comply will be placed on administrative hold until compliance is documents with Student Services. Students on administrative hold will be unable to enroll for classes the following semester until compliance is documents and the hold is released by the VP of Student Services.

Meningitis Health Information Facts, Policy, and Waiver Information

To reduce the spread of bacterial meningitis among the student population, all incoming students residing in campus housing will be vaccinated for meningitis or sign a waiver indicating that they refuse to receive the vaccine at this time.

What is Meningococcal Meningitis?

Meningococcal meningitis is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream and meninges (a thin lining covering the brain and spinal cord). It is a relatively rare disease and usually occurs as a single isolated event.

How is the germ that causes this type of meningitis spread?

The meningococcal germ is spread by direct close contact (kissing, sneezing, coughing, sharing water bottles) with the nose or throat discharges of an infected person. Many people may carry this germ in the nose and throat without any signs of illness.

Who gets meningococcal meningitis?

Anyone can get meningococcal meningitis, but it is more common in infants, children, and young adults. College freshman who live in student housing have a slightly higher risk of getting this infection than others their age.

What are the symptoms?

Most individuals exposed to the meningococcal germ do not become seriously ill: some may develop a fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck, and rash. ¼ of those who recover may have permanent damage to the nervous system. The disease occasionally causes death.

How soon do the symptoms appear?

After exposure, the symptoms will appear within two (2) to ten (10) days, but generally within five (5) days.

When and for how long is an infected person able to spread the disease?

From the time a person is first infected until the germ is no longer present in nose and throat discharge, the disease may be transmitted. The duration varies according to the individuals and their course of treatment followed.

What is the treatment for meningococcal meningitis?

Penicillin is the drug of choice for treatment, although other antibiotics are very effective in eliminating the germ from the nose and mouth.

Should people who have been in contact with a diagnosed case of meningococcal meningitis be treated?

Only people who have been in close contact (household members, intimate contacts, etc.) need to be considered for a preventive treatment. Casual contact, as might occur in a regular classroom or office setting, is not usually significant enough to cause concern. People who think they have been exposed to meningococcal infection should contact the local health department to discuss whether treatment is advised.

Is there a vaccine to prevent meningococcal meningitis?

Presently, there are two (2) vaccines that will protect against several of the strains of the meningococcal germ.

Is the meningococcal vaccine safe?

Vaccines, like any medicines, can cause problems such as allergic reactions. The risk associated with receiving the vaccine are much less significant than the risks that are associated with the disease. Some individuals may experience mild side effects which include redness or pain at the injection site, warm to touch, and mild fever.

Where can a student get vaccinated?

Local health care provider or Seward County Health Department (620-626-3369) is located at 103 W 2nd St in Liberal.

WAIVER OF MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS IMMUNIZATION (DOES NOT RECEIVE VACCINATION)

I have chosen not to be immunized. My signature below signifies that I have received and read the material provided to me on meningitis by Seward County Community College Student Housing.

Signature of Student – REQUIRED if no vaccine on record

ID number

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian, if student is under 18 yrs of age

Revised Aug 2019