

To Parents and Guardians of Rutgers University-New Brunswick Undergraduate Students:

In response to the recent serogroup B meningococcal infections in two undergraduate students, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and Rutgers University strongly recommend, with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), that **all Rutgers University-New Brunswick undergraduate students**, as well as a few other very specific populations outlined below, **receive the serogroup B meningococcal (MenB) vaccine Trumenba® (Pfizer) this summer.**

It is strongly recommended all undergraduate students receive the first two doses of the vaccine Trumenba® before the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year. Dose two is given 1-2 months after the first dose and the third dose should be administered 6 months after the first dose.

You can get Trumenba® from your health care provider or local pharmacy. To confirm availability, use the vaccine locator through CDC at <http://www.vaccines.gov/getting/where/index.html>, or call Trumenba® Vaccine Locator Service at 1-800-683-8572. As this has been classified as an outbreak setting, many insurance companies will cover the cost of the vaccine. You can confirm with your insurance company.

All Rutgers University-New Brunswick undergraduate students are required to submit either verification of receiving the vaccine series or sign a declination form containing information about meningococcal disease prevention and vaccination. Verification and other forms can be found at www.health.rutgers.edu/meningitis. Completed forms can be returned two ways:

By email: vaccine@rci.rutgers.edu

By mail: Rutgers University
Attention: Immunizations
57 US Highway 1
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Meningococcal bacteria are spread from person-to-person through the exchange of saliva (spit), coughs, and sneezes. You must be in direct (close) or lengthy contact with an infected person's secretions to be exposed (e.g. kissing, sharing eating utensils, sharing water bottles, sharing smoking materials such as cigarettes and vaping materials).

Meningococcal disease is not spread by casual contact, such as being in a classroom or house with an infected person or sharing a bus with an infected person.

In addition to all Rutgers University-New Brunswick undergraduate students, the following populations are recommended for vaccination:

- Members of the Rutgers University-New Brunswick community with medical conditions that put them at increased risk for meningococcal disease. These conditions include functional and anatomic asplenia (including sickle cell disease), persistent complement component deficiencies (C3, C5-C9, properdin, factor H, factor D), and taking Soliris® for treatment of atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS) or paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH).

- Microbiologists who are routinely exposed to the bacteria that cause meningococcal disease, *Neisseria meningitidis*.

Other Rutgers University-New Brunswick family members, graduate students, faculty, staff, and visitors are not considered at increased risk for meningococcal disease and are therefore not recommended for vaccination with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine due to the occurrence of cases at the Rutgers University-New Brunswick campus.

Additional information can also be found at www.health.rutgers.edu/meningitis.

Sincerely,

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