

To all Rutgers University-New Brunswick Undergraduates:

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 incoming and returning Rutgers University-New Brunswick undergraduate students, including transfer students, regardless of whether or not they live in campus housing, 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 that you 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.

The MenB vaccine is different than the meningococcal vaccine required of all students in University housing. The required meningitis vaccine for residential students does not protect against the B strain of the bacteria, which was detected in the two students. All undergraduate students, regardless of living on or off campus, are recommended to get Trumenba®.

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.

Meningococcal disease is a rare, but potentially fatal disease with early symptoms that resemble the flu, making diagnosis difficult. 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 infection is not spread by casual contact, such as being in a classroom with or sharing a bus with an infected person.

If you experience any symptoms of meningococcal disease (high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, vomiting, purple skin rash), seek medical attention immediately. While meningococcal disease is treatable with antibiotics, treatment must be started quickly.

Again, it is strongly recommended that you receive two of the three doses, spaced 1-2 months apart, of the Trumenba® vaccine before the beginning of the 2016/2017 academic year.

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

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*.

For more information on serogroup B meningococcal disease, vaccination, and prevention, visit health.rutgers.edu/meningitis. Please review this information carefully to learn how you can best protect yourself against this disease.

Rutgers University is doing everything we can to prevent the spread of serogroup B meningococcal disease, however it is possible that additional infections could occur. We are closely monitoring the situation in conjunction with state, regional and local public health officials and will continue to provide updates as necessary.

Sincerely,

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