

Meningococcal Vaccine Policy Recommendations

For the promotion and protection of the health of its students, it is recommended that Colleges/Universities review policies and practices to ensure the following:

- All students living in close-quarters, such as fraternity and sorority members, receive or provide record of meningococcal vaccination.
- Exemptions are not taken for granted, but are carefully reviewed to ensure that students understand the risk undertaken by refusing vaccination.
- The student health center should keep an updated roster of the vaccination status of each student enrolled in the institution. This will facilitate the identification of potential at-risk students, should an isolated case or an outbreak of meningococcal meningitis occur.
- Policy and practices are reviewed to ensure that the health promoting choice is convenient and accessible to all students.

The goal of the recommendation is to encourage practices and procedures that set the default state for students as receiving the vaccination, establishing widespread disease protection of Kansas College/University students.

DRAFT Template for a Meningococcal Vaccination Policy for Kansas Colleges and Universities

In accordance with Kansas law, the Kansas Board of Regents policy and procedures manual, and current recommendations from public health and medical professional organizations, this College/University requires that all incoming or returning students residing in dormitory-style housing be vaccinated for meningococcal meningitis.

- a) Within 10 days before the scheduled move-in date, or before room assignment, students must provide record of current meningococcal vaccination from a medical provider to the student health center (unless the student health center is already in possession of such record).
 - b) Students who have a medical, religious or other exemption from this requirement must sign a waiver by the established deadline. This waiver states that they understand the risk that foregoing vaccination poses and that they have received and read the educational material that the College/University has made available. Requests for a medical exemption will require documentation from a licensed physician. If a student is less than 18 years of age, the waiver must be signed by a parent or guardian. Staff at the student health center will review waiver requests and may request to meet with a student submitting a waiver to discuss the student's request. Waivers will remain in effect for one academic year.
 - c) Students will NOT be able to move into their designated dormitory-style housing until proof of the meningococcal vaccination has been received and evaluated OR a request for a waiver has been submitted and approved by the student health center.
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Kansas – Current Law

76-761a. Student housing; meningitis vaccination. (a) Beginning with the first academic term commencing after July 1, 2007, and for each academic term thereafter, each college and university shall have in place policies and procedures requiring that all incoming students residing in student

housing be vaccinated for meningitis. Such policies shall include appropriate waiver procedures for those who refuse to take the vaccine.

(b) Nothing in this section shall require or be construed to require any college or university to provide or to pay for any vaccination against meningitis. History: L. 2006, ch. 111, § 3; July 1.

Board of Regents Policy

“Effective at the start of the 2006-07 academic year, each Regents institution shall have in place policies and procedures requiring that all incoming students residing in student housing be vaccinated for meningitis. Such policies shall include appropriate waiver procedures for those who refuse to take the vaccine. (9-15-05)”