Dear Harvard Student,

On behalf of Harvard University Health Services (HUHS), welcome to Harvard!

As a student, you must meet Massachusetts’ immunization requirements. **Non-submission and/or missing required immunizations will place a hold on your account and you will not be able to register for classes.**

We understand that this process can feel overwhelming, so we’ve outlined the steps you need to take to ensure that your immunization records are submitted to us in a seamless and timely fashion.

Best regards,

**Giang Nguyen, MD, MPH, MSCE, FAAFP**
Director, Harvard University Health Services
Henry K. Oliver Chair of Hygiene

### Immunization Instructions

**Step 1:** Visit: [http://huhs.harvard.edu/immunizations](http://huhs.harvard.edu/immunizations) and select the immunization packet that correlates to your school/program. You will need to print the packet and bring the medical forms to your provider.

**Step 2:** Once your Harvard Key is available (contact your Registrar for questions about Harvard Key assignment), you will then be able to upload completed forms on the HUHS patient portal at: [huhs.harvard.edu/patient-portal](http://huhs.harvard.edu/patient-portal). Submitted immunization documentation must be in English.

**Step 3:** Enter dates for all required immunizations on the patient portal. Supporting vaccine documentation needs to be uploaded as well.

*If you are unable to upload your forms to the patient portal, please find your school in the “additional questions?” section below and reach out to us.*

### Additional questions?

Visit: [http://huhs.harvard.edu/immunizations](http://huhs.harvard.edu/immunizations) for more information, including FAQs.

*If contacting us via email, please include your full name, your school and your Harvard ID in the email message.*

#### Medical (HMS), Dental (HSDM)

Phone: (617) 432-1370  
Fax: (617) 432-7120  
Email: mahealthservices@huhs.harvard.edu

#### Law (HLS)

Phone: (617) 495-4414  
Fax: (617) 495-8090  
Email: lawschoolhealthservices@huhs.harvard.edu

#### Harvard College (undergraduates), Graduate School of Arts & Sciences (GSAS), Business (HBS), Design (HGSD), Divinity (HDS), Education (HGSE), Government (HKS), Public Health (HSPH)

Phone: (617) 495-2055  
Fax: (617) 495-8077  
Email: mrecords@huhs.harvard.edu

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### Where to get your immunizations

Many private health plans cover the cost of immunizations, so it’s recommended that you receive your required immunizations before you arrive at Harvard.

If you are unable to obtain these prior to your arrival on campus, you may arrange to get immunizations at various locations in the area. HUHS holds immunization walk in clinics in August. Check your school or [http://huhs.harvard.edu/immunizations](http://huhs.harvard.edu/immunizations) websites for dates.

Please note that your health plan may not cover immunizations you receive at HUHS and you are responsible for the cost of the immunizations.

### Submission Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall term matriculation:</th>
<th>June 11, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring term matriculation:</td>
<td>January 3, 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Included in this packet are the following forms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forms</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immunization Compliance Information Academic Year 2021-2022</td>
<td>Informational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immunization Form Checklist</td>
<td>Use this checklist to make sure you’ve completed all steps needed to be immunization compliant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Immunization History/Health Care Provider’s Report            | • Take a copy of the immunization requirements and immunization history forms to your health provider.  
• Upon completion, upload provider-signed immunization history form to the patient portal.  
• Enter all immunization dates within “Medical Clearances” section of the patient portal.  
• Upload supporting vaccine documentation into the patient portal.  
  *Submitted immunization documentation must be in English.* |
| Required and Strongly Recommended Vaccinations for Students List | Informational; bring with you to your provider                            |
| Healthcare Non-Clinical Compliance Memorandum                | Informational; message for non-clinical Medical School students.         |
| Tuberculosis Screening                                       | To be completed and signed by your doctor.  
  Upon completion, upload provider-signed document to the patient portal. |
| Health History                                               | To be entered by the student in the patient portal.  
  *Not a form in this packet. It is located on the homepage of the patient portal.* |
| Profile                                                      | To be entered by the student in the patient portal.  
  *Not a form in this packet. It is located on the homepage of the patient portal.* |
| Meningococcal Fact Sheet & Waiver                            | Informational; waiver to be completed, if applicable.                   |

Please note, immunization verification can take a minimum of 2 weeks to process. 
Log into the patient portal at [https://huhs.harvard.edu/patient-portal](https://huhs.harvard.edu/patient-portal) to check the status of your submission.
Immunization History AY 2021-2022

Harvard University Non-Healthcare Programs &
Harvard University Non-Clinical Healthcare Programs

Name: ________________________  DOB: _________________  School: ________________________

last name, first name

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Harvard University require full-time students and all students on a visa to be immunized against certain communicable diseases. All dates must include month, day, and year. To comply, have this form completed and signed by your healthcare provider. Once completed by provider, student is to upload all documents to the Patient Portal as soon as possible and no later than June 11, 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Vaccine</th>
<th>Dates Given</th>
<th>Harvard and Massachusetts State Requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR) if administered separately or positive titers obtained record below</td>
<td>#1___/<em><strong>/</strong>__ <strong>#2</strong></em>___/_____/____</td>
<td>Two immunizations on or after the first birthday, at least 28 days after first dose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive Titer Date: <em><strong><strong>/____/</strong></strong></em> month day year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tetanus/Diphtheria/ Pertussis (Tdap) TD does not fulfill this requirement.</td>
<td><em><strong><strong>/____/</strong></strong></em> month day year</td>
<td>One dose of Tdap After 1/1/2012 (Harvard requirement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>#1___/<em><strong>/</strong>__ #2</em>_____/_____/____</td>
<td>Dose #1: any age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive Titer Date: _____/<strong><strong>/</strong></strong></td>
<td>Dose #2: 28 days after dose #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dose #3: at least 8 weeks (56 days) between #2 and #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>month day year</td>
<td>There must be at least 16 weeks (112 days) between #1 and #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varicella Vaccination</td>
<td>#1___/<em><strong>/</strong>__ <strong>#2</strong></em>___/_____/____</td>
<td>- Dose #1: on or after the first birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Positive Titer Date: <em><strong><strong>/____/</strong></strong></em></td>
<td>- Dose #2: at least 28 days after dose #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>month day year</td>
<td>- OR if born in the USA before 1980, you may waive by initialing here: ______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Medical record documentation signed by provider</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Age: __________</td>
<td>Varicella vaccination must have been administered on or after March, 1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Date of Disease: <em><strong><strong>/____/</strong></strong></em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>month day year</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flu Vaccination</td>
<td>_____/<strong><strong>/</strong></strong> month day year</td>
<td>One dose of flu vaccine on or after 7/1/2021 (Harvard requirement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meningococcal</td>
<td>_____/<strong><strong>/</strong></strong> month day year</td>
<td>One dose on or after age 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required for students 21 years old and younger</td>
<td>A-C-W-Y strains, NOT “B”</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Strongly Recommended:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s) Given:</th>
<th>Mass State Recommends:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TB Skin Test/Blood Test:</td>
<td>Baseline history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date: mm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardasil (HPV)</td>
<td>3 doses over 6 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel-Related</td>
<td>Booster dose of injected polio vaccine following completion of primary series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio (most recent dose):</td>
<td>Repeat vaccination every 10 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Fever:</td>
<td>Repeat series every: 5 years-Oral, 3 years IM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typhoid: circle type</td>
<td>2 doses. Dose #2, 6 months after dose #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IM:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis A:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

X ________________________

Signature of physician/nurse practitioner/physician assistant/school official

Date

The only circumstances under which a student may be exempted from the Massachusetts Immunization Law are as follows:

*Certification in writing by an examining health care provider who is of the opinion that the student’s physical condition is such that his/her health would be endangered by one or more of the immunizations. The student will be required to submit laboratory evidence of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella; if not immune he/she will have to leave campus in the event of an outbreak; OR

*The student states in writing that the required immunizations would conflict with his/her religious beliefs. It is recommended that he/she present evidence of immunity, as above. Otherwise he/she will have to leave campus in the event of an outbreak.

Student to complete Student Vaccine Exemption form. The Massachusetts Department of Public Health requires the waiver to be renewed annually.
Name: ___________________________ DOB: ______________ School: _______________________

last name, first name

The above-named student has been admitted to Harvard University. While in attendance at Harvard, the student may be eligible for and receive health care services at Harvard University Health Services (HUHS). It will be extremely helpful for HUHS to have knowledge of the student’s current and past medical history. In addition, the student’s immunization history must be up to date as defined by Massachusetts law. Providers are asked to complete, sign, and return this form to the student so the student can upload to the Harvard University Patient Portal no later than June 11, 2021.

1. Date of Physical Exam: ______ Height: _______ Weight: _______ (must be within 12 months prior to registration)

2. Has the student suffered any major illnesses or injury in the past of which we should be aware?

3. Is the student currently under treatment? Please include the names and contact numbers for any outside health providers with whom we may need to consult.

4. Abnormal laboratory, radiology, physical findings (e.g. Pap smear, mammogram, heart murmur)?

5. Emotional issues (e.g. depression, eating disorder)?

6. Any contraindication to contact or non-contact sports?

7. What recommendations do you have for the student’s medical supervision? We would appreciate your sending any reports that would help us care for the student needing continuing care or monitoring.

Signature of health care provider
Phone number of practice
Date
REQUIRED IMMUNIZATIONS

Documented Positive Antibody Titer will be accepted for the following required vaccinations:

MMR (“Measles-Mumps-Rubella”)
Dose #1 – on or after 1st birthday
Dose #2 – at least 28 days after dose #1

Varicella (“Chickenpox”)
Dose #1 – on or after 1st birthday
Dose #2 – at least 28 days after dose #1
*If born in United States before 1980, you may waive (see Immunization History Form)

Hepatitis B
Energix-B
(3 dose series required)
Dose #1 – anytime
Dose #2 – at least 4 weeks (28 days) after dose #1
Dose #3 – at least 8 weeks (56 days) between #2 and #3
*There must be at least 16 weeks (112 days) between #1 and #3

Twinrix
(3 dose series required)
Dose #1 – on or after 18th birthday
Dose #2 – at least 4 weeks (28 days) after dose #1
Dose #3 – 140 days after dose #2

Heplisav-B (2 dose series required)
Dose #1 – on or after 18th birthday
Dose #2 – at least 28 days after dose #1

No Antibody Titer tests for the following required immunizations; compliance must be maintained for entire Academic Year in order to register:

Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (“Tdap”) *
* Tetanus-only booster NOT acceptable
Must include Pertussis
One dose of Tdap after 1/1/2012

Meningococcal (“Menveo,” “Menactra”) *
* Must protect from A-C-W-Y strains, not B
One dose of Meningococcal required for students 21 years old and younger only. Dose #1 must be on or after 16th birthday.

Flu Vaccine
One dose on or after 7/1/2021

STONGLY RECOMMENDED IMMUNIZATIONS

Tuberculosis Baseline Testing (“TB Test”)
• Skin Test (PPD, Mantoux)
• IGRA Blood test result

Gardasil (Human Papilloma Virus, “HPV”)
3 doses over 6 months

Travel Related Recommendations
(Documentation recommended for all potential travelers)

Hepatitis A
Havrix (2 dose series)
Dose #1 – Any age
Dose #2 – 6 months after dose #1

Twinrix (Hep A and Hep B) (3 dose series)
See “Hepatitis B Energix-B/Twinrix” schedule

Polio
Booster dose of injectable polio vaccine after initial series

Typhoid
Repeat series every:
• 5 years for oral typhoid
• 3 years for injected typhoid

Yellow Fever
Recommend retention of WHO/CDC “Yellow Book” for documentation as vaccine is now “Valid of Lifetime of Traveler”
Please follow the immunization documentation instructions as described in this packet. You are required to upload your immunization documentation to the Harvard University Health Services’ patient portal; however, you are not required to obtain and upload laboratory reports verifying your immunity (titers) as is required of students pursuing clinical degrees at Harvard Medical School.

The Harvard University Health Services (HUHS) patient portal will continue to show you as “non-compliant,” as the software is unable to distinguish non-clinical from clinical HMS students.

Once compliant with the non-clinical requirements, a staff member at the Medical Area Health Services will be able to manually change your compliance status in HUHS patient portal.
Complete sections A and B. If you answer yes to any questions, please have your health care provider complete section C. Form must be signed and returned to above address by June 11, 2021.

Name (please print): ___________________________________________________________ Harvard ID#: _____________________________________________________________

Country of Birth: ______________________ Year arrived in US: _____________________

SECTION A: History of Tuberculosis (TB)?
1. Have you ever been sick with tuberculosis? YES □ NO □
2. Have you ever had a positive PPD, TB Quantiferon test, or T-SPOT? YES □ NO □

SECTION B: At Risk for Tuberculosis (TB)?
1. Are you currently in a health-related academic program/major? YES □ NO □
2. Were you born in, or have you lived, worked or visited for more than one month in any of the following:
   Asia, Africa, South America, Central America or Eastern Europe? YES □ NO □
   If yes, what country? __________________________ How long? ____________
   Reason (please circle) Born there Other □__________ Tourist □ Work □ School □
3. Have you had HIV infection, AIDS, diabetes, leukemia, lymphoma or a chronic immune disorder? YES □ NO □
4. Do any of the following conditions or situations apply to you?
   a) Do you have a persistent cough? (3 weeks or more), fever, night sweats, fatigue, loss of appetite, or weight loss? YES □ NO □
   b) Have you ever lived with or been in close contact to a person known or suspected of being sick with TB? YES □ NO □
   c) Have you ever lived, worked, or volunteered in any homeless shelter, prison/jail, hospital or drug rehabilitation unit, nursing home or residential healthcare facility? YES □ NO □

Student Signature __________________________ Date __________________________

If you answered no to all of the above questions, skip Section C, you are done.

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, your health care provider must complete Section C below.

SECTION C: ATTENTION HEALTH CARE PROVIDER: If patient answered YES to any of the above questions, proof of a PPD, QuantIFERON –TB Gold or T-SPOT is REQUIRED. If PPD results are 10mm or more, or QuantIFERON-TB Gold or T-SPOT are positive a chest x-ray is REQUIRED. Testing and/or chest x-ray must be done within one calendar year prior to admittance (unless history of positive PPD). If student has history of positive PPD, chest x-ray is required. History of BCG vaccination does not prevent testing of a member of a high risk group.

PPD: Date placed ______________Date read ______________# of mm induration ______________

QuantIFERON-TB Gold or T-SPOT: Result Date __________________________ Result (attach lab report) __________________________

Date of chest x-ray ______________Result __________________________

If negative CXR and positive PPD, did student complete a course of INH? YES □ NO □
If yes, when ______________(months & year) and for how many months did student take INH? ______________(# of months)

PROVIDER INFORMATION REQUIRED

__________________________ __________________________ __________________________
Signature of health care provider Phone number of practice Date
What is meningococcal disease?
Meningococcal disease occurs with infections due to the bacterium, *Neisseria meningitidis*. There are two major types of meningococcal disease: Meningococcal meningitis and meningococcemia. Meningococcal meningitis is an infection of the tissue (called the “meninges”) that surrounds the brain and spinal cord. Meningococcemia is an infection of the blood and may also involve other parts of the body.

What are *Neisseria meningitidis*?
*Neisseria meningitidis* are bacteria that may be found normally in people’s throats and noses. About 5 to 15% of people carry these bacteria and do not get sick from them. These people may be called “carriers.” Carriers only have bacteria for a short time. Usually, the bacteria go away and these people may have increased resistance to infection in the future. In rare cases, the bacteria may get into the blood and go to the tissue surrounding the spinal cord and brain, causing severe illness.

How are the bacteria spread?
The bacteria are spread from person-to-person through saliva (spit). You must be in close contact with an infected person’s saliva in order for the bacteria to spread. Close contact includes activities such as kissing, sharing water bottles, sharing eating/drinking utensils, or sharing cigarettes with someone who is infected; or being within 3-6 feet of someone who is infected and is coughing or sneezing.

How is meningococcal disease diagnosed?
Persons showing signs and symptoms of illness are diagnosed by growing the bacteria from their spinal fluid (meningitis) or blood (meningococcemia) in the laboratory. It may take up to 72 hours to have test results. Sometimes an earlier diagnosis can be made by looking at a person’s spinal fluid under a microscope. Often a preliminary diagnosis is made on the basis of signs and symptoms before laboratory results are available.

What are the signs and symptoms of illness?

**Meningococcal meningitis:**
Signs and symptoms of meningitis include sudden onset of high fever, stiff neck, headache, nausea, vomiting, and/or mental confusion. Changes in behavior such as confusion, sleepiness, and being hard to wake up are important symptoms of this illness. A rash may be present, often involving the hands and feet. In babies, the only signs of this illness may be acting more tired than usual, acting more irritable than usual, and eating less than usual. Babies with meningitis will usually have a fever, but this is not a reliable sign of illness. Anyone who has these symptoms should be seen by a health care provider right away.

**Meningococcemia:**
Signs and symptoms of meningococcemia include a sudden onset of fever, chills, and feeling unusually weak and tired. A rash may be present, often on the hands and feet. Anyone who has these symptoms should be seen by a health care provider right away.
How are these illnesses treated?
Antibiotics are used to treat people with both meningococcal meningitis and meningococcemia. People who have had close contact with the sick person any time during the two weeks before she/he became ill may also need to take antibiotics. Preventive treatment of all close contacts should be started as soon as possible but ideally within 24 hours of identifying the case.

Why do close contacts of a sick person need to be treated?
Close contacts of a person who has meningococcal disease are treated with antibiotics because the disease-causing bacteria may be spread from the infected person to other people through contact with the saliva (spit) of the infected person. The antibiotics will kill the bacteria and prevent illness.

Is there a vaccine to protect me from getting sick?
Yes, there are 3 different meningococcal vaccines.

- Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra and Menveo) protects against 4 serotypes (subgroups), A, C, W, and Y, of meningococcal disease. It is recommended for all children 11-12 years of age and for some younger children with certain health conditions like asplenia (including sickle cell disease), or prior to travel to certain parts of the world where meningococcal disease is common. A second dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine is routinely recommended at 16 years of age. Adolescents and young adults who have not been vaccinated according to routine recommendations should talk to their healthcare provider about vaccination according to the “catch up” schedule.

  College freshmen, military recruits and other newly enrolled college students living in dormitories who are not yet vaccinated are also recommended to receive meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

- Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (Bexsero and Trumenba) protects against serogroup B meningococcal disease. It is recommended for people with certain relatively rare high-risk health conditions age 10 or older (examples: persons with a damaged spleen or whose spleen has been removed, those with persistent complement component deficiency, microbiologists working with *N. meningitidis*, and people who may have been exposed during an outbreak). Adolescents and young adults (16 through 23 years of age) may also be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, preferably at 16 through 18 years of age, to provide short term protection for most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease.

- Quadrivalent meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (Menomune) also protects against 4 types (A, C, W, Y) of the 13 serogroups (subgroups) of *N. meningitidis* that cause serious disease. It is recommended for people with certain high-risk conditions 56 years of age and older.

If you have questions about whether or not you or your child should receive any of these vaccines, talk to your healthcare provider.
Are students required to get meningococcal vaccine?
Massachusetts law requires newly enrolled full-time students attending colleges and schools with grades 9-12, who will be living in a dormitory or other congregate housing, licensed or approved by the school or college, to receive a dose of quadrivalent meningococcal vaccine. These students must provide documentation of having received a dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine. Immunizations should be obtained prior to enrollment or registration; however, students may be enrolled or registered provided that the required immunizations are obtained within 30 days of registration. There is no requirement for meningococcal B vaccination. The law contains exemptions. More information may be found in the MDPH documents “Meningococcal Disease and College Students” and “Information about Meningococcal Disease and Vaccination and Waiver for Students at Residential Schools and Colleges.”

MDPH strongly recommends two doses of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine for all adolescents: a first dose at age 11 through 12 years, with a second dose at 16 years. While not required, MDPH strongly recommends that anyone up to 21 years of age who is entering college receive a second dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine if their first dose was received before their 16th birthday, particularly if they are new residential students. College students who do not live in campus-related housing and want to reduce their risk for meningococcal disease may also choose to be vaccinated, though it is not required. Adolescents and young adults (16 through 23 years of age) may also be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, preferably at 16 through 18 years of age, to provide short term protection for most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease.

What should I do if I have had contact with a person who has meningococcal disease?
If you have had close contact with a person who has been diagnosed with meningococcal disease you should call your health care provider and get an antibiotic. If you have had contact with an ill person, but have not had close contact, you should be aware of the symptoms of illness and contact your health care provider right away if you have any of these symptoms.

Are there times when I would not have to take antibiotics after close contact with a sick person with meningitis?
Yes. Meningitis can be caused by many different types of germs, including other bacteria and viruses. Only certain types of meningitis require treatment of the infected person’s close contacts. If you have questions about meningitis or your exposure to a sick person, contact your health care provider.

Where can I get more information?
- Your healthcare provider
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800 or on the MDPH website at http://www.mass.gov/dph/
- Your local health department (listed in the phone book under government)
Information about Meningococcal Disease, Meningococcal Vaccines, Vaccination Requirements and the Waiver for Students at Colleges and Residential Schools

Colleges: Massachusetts requires all newly enrolled full-time students 21 years of age and under attending a postsecondary institution (e.g., college) to receive a dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine on or after their 16th birthday to protect against serotypes A, C, W and Y or fall within one of the exemptions in the law, discussed on the reverse side of this sheet.

Residential Schools: Massachusetts requires all newly enrolled full-time students attending a secondary school who will be living in a dormitory or other congregate housing licensed or approved by the secondary school or institution (e.g., boarding school) to receive quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine to protect against serotypes A, C, W and Y or fall within one of the exemptions in the law, discussed on the reverse side of this sheet.

The law provides an exemption for students signing a waiver that reviews the dangers of meningococcal disease and indicates that the vaccination has been declined. To qualify for this exemption, you are required to review the information below and sign the waiver at the end of this document. Please note, if a student is under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian must be given a copy of this document and must sign the waiver.

What is meningococcal disease?
Meningococcal disease is caused by infection with bacteria called Neisseria meningitidis. These bacteria can infect the tissue that surrounds the brain and spinal cord called the “meninges” and cause meningitis, or they can infect the blood or other body organs. Symptoms of meningococcal disease may appear suddenly. Fever, severe and constant headache, stiff neck or neck pain, nausea and vomiting, sensitivity to light and rash can all be signs of meningococcal disease. Changes in behavior such as confusion, sleepiness, and trouble waking up can also be important symptoms. Less common presentations include pneumonia and arthritis. In the US, about 350-550 people get meningococcal disease each year and 10-15% die despite receiving antibiotic treatment. Of those who live, another 10-20% lose their arms or legs, become hard of hearing or deaf, have problems with their nervous systems, including long term neurologic problems, or suffer seizures or strokes.

How is meningococcal disease spread?
These bacteria are passed from person-to-person through saliva (spit). You must be in close contact with an infected person’s saliva in order for the bacteria to spread. Close contact includes activities such as kissing, sharing water bottles, sharing eating/drinking utensils or sharing cigarettes with someone who is infected; or being within 3-6 feet of someone who is infected and is coughing or sneezing.

Who is at most risk for getting meningococcal disease?
High-risk groups include anyone with a damaged spleen or whose spleen has been removed, those with persistent complement component deficiency (an inherited immune disorder), HIV infection, those traveling to countries where meningococcal disease is very common, microbiologists who work with the organism and people who may have been exposed to meningococcal disease during an outbreak. People who live in certain settings such as first year college students living on campus and military recruits are also at greater risk of disease from some of the serogroups.

Which students are most at risk for meningococcal disease?
In the 1990s, college freshmen living in residence halls were identified as being at increased risk for meningococcal disease. Meningococcal disease and outbreaks in young adults were primarily due to serogroup C. However, following many years of routine vaccination of young people with quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (for serogroups A, C, W and Y), serogroup B is now the primary cause of meningococcal disease and outbreaks in young adults. Among the approximately 9 million students aged 18-21 years enrolled in college, there are an average of 20 cases and 0-4 outbreaks due to serogroup B reported annually. Although incidence of serogroup B meningococcal disease in college students is low, four-year college students are at increased risk compared to non-college students; risk is highest among first-year students living on campus. The close contact in college residence halls, combined with social mixing activities (such as going to bars, clubs or parties; participating in Greek life; sharing food or beverages; and other activities involving the exchange of saliva), may put college students at increased risk.

Is there a vaccine against meningococcal disease?
Yes, there are 2 different meningococcal vaccines. Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine (Menactra and Menveo) protects against 4 serotypes (A, C, W and Y) of meningococcal disease. Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine (Bexsero and Trumenba) protects against serogroup B meningococcal disease. Quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine is routinely recommended at age 11-12 years with a booster at age 16. Students receiving their first dose on or after their 16th birthday do not need a booster. Individuals in certain high risk groups may need to receive 1 or more of these vaccines based on their doctor’s recommendations. Adolescents and young adults (16-23 years of age) who are not in high risk groups may be vaccinated with meningococcal B vaccine, preferably at 16-18 years of age, to provide short-term protection for most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease. Talk with your doctor about which vaccines you should receive.

MDPH 2020
(see reverse side)
Is the meningococcal vaccine safe?
Yes. Getting meningococcal vaccine is much safer than getting the disease. Some people who get meningococcal vaccine have mild side effects, such as redness or pain where the shot was given. These symptoms usually last for 1-2 days. A small percentage of people who receive the vaccine develop a fever. The vaccine can be given to pregnant women. A vaccine, like any medicine, is capable of causing serious problems such as severe allergic reactions, but these are rare.

Is meningococcal vaccine mandatory for entry into secondary schools that provide housing, and colleges?
Massachusetts law (MGL Ch. 76, s.15D) and regulations (105 CMR 220.000) requires both newly enrolled full-time students attending a secondary school (those schools with grades 9-12) who will be living in a dormitory or other congregate housing licensed or approved by the secondary school or institution and newly enrolled full-time students 21 years of age and younger attending a postsecondary institution (e.g., colleges) to receive a dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine.

At affected secondary schools, the requirements apply to all new full-time residential students, regardless of grade (including grades pre-K through 8) and year of study. Secondary school students must provide documentation of having received a dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine at any time in the past, unless they qualify for one of the exemptions allowed by the law. College students 21 years of age and younger must provide documentation of having received a dose of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine on or after their 16th birthday, regardless of housing status, unless they qualify for one of the exemptions allowed by the law. Meningococcal B vaccines are not required and do not fulfill the requirement for receipt of meningococcal vaccine. Whenever possible, immunizations should be obtained prior to enrollment or registration. However, students may be enrolled or registered provided that the required immunizations are obtained within 30 days of registration.

Exemptions: Students may begin classes without a certificate of immunization against meningococcal disease if: 1) the student has a letter from a physician stating that there is a medical reason why he/she can’t receive the vaccine; 2) the student (or the student’s parent or legal guardian, if the student is a minor) presents a statement in writing that such vaccination is against his/her sincere religious belief; or 3) the student (or the student’s parent or legal guardian, if the student is a minor) signs the waiver below stating that the student has received information about the dangers of meningococcal disease, reviewed the information provided and elected to decline the vaccine.

Shouldn’t meningococcal B vaccine be required?
CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices has reviewed the available data regarding serogroup B meningococcal disease and the vaccines. At the current time, there is no routine recommendation and no statewide requirement for meningococcal B vaccination before going to college (although some colleges might decide to have such a requirement). As noted previously, adolescents and young adults (16 through 23 years of age) may be vaccinated with a serogroup B meningococcal vaccine, preferably at 16 through 18 years of age, to provide short term protection against most strains of serogroup B meningococcal disease. This would be a decision between a patient or parent and a healthcare provider. These policies may change as new information becomes available.

Where can a student get vaccinated?
Students and their parents should contact their healthcare provider and make an appointment to discuss meningococcal disease, the benefits and risks of vaccination, and the availability of these vaccines. Schools and college health services are not required to provide you with this vaccine.

Where can I get more information?
- Your healthcare provider
- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at (617) 983-6800 or www.mass.gov/dph/imm and www.mass.gov/dph/epi
- Your local health department (listed in the phone book under government)

Waiver for Meningococcal Vaccination Requirement
I have received and reviewed the information provided on the risks of meningococcal disease and the risks and benefits of quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine. I understand that Massachusetts’ law requires newly enrolled full-time students at secondary schools who are living in a dormitory or congregate living arrangement licensed or approved by the secondary school, and newly enrolled full-time students at colleges and universities who are 21 years of age or younger to receive meningococcal vaccinations, unless the students provide a signed waiver of the vaccination or otherwise qualify for one of the exemptions specified in the law.

☐ After reviewing the materials above on the dangers of meningococcal disease, I choose to waive receipt of meningococcal vaccine.

Student Name: ___________________________ Date of Birth: _______ Student ID: ______________

Signature: ___________________________ Date: __________________

(Student or parent/legal guardian, if student is under 18 years of age)

MDPH Meningococcal Information and Waiver Form
Provided by: Massachusetts Department of Public Health / Divisions of Epidemiology and Immunization / 617-983-6800

Updated September 2020
What You Should Know About Sharing Your Immunization Information

Harvard University Health Services (HUHS) is required by law to participate in the Massachusetts Immunization Information System (MIIS). The MIIS immunization registry (M.G.L c. 111, Section 24M), is a confidential, electronic system that collects and stores vaccination records for Massachusetts residents of all ages. The immunization program is operated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and is designed to help you, along with your health care providers, schools, and childcare centers, to keep track of the vaccinations that you and/or your family members have received.

Why is the MIIS important?
The schedule of vaccinations that you need to stay healthy and that are required for you becomes more complicated with every new vaccine introduced. Keeping all of your vaccine records in one place helps to make sure that you get the complete schedule of immunizations – no more and no less. The registry allows secure yet easy access to your immunization information for all other Massachusetts clinicians outside of HUHS in the event of a referral or emergency.

What information about me will be entered into the MIIS?
All residents of Massachusetts, including Harvard University students, will have their vaccine information (both historical and newly given by HUHS clinicians), entered into the MIIS. Your name, address, gender, date of birth, and the health care provider’s location will be entered to identify you within the MIIS. All the information given through the MIIS is secure and confidential.

What does it mean if I do not want to participate in the MIIS?
By state law, your immunization information will be sent to the MIIS. Massachusetts’ residents have the right to limit who may see their or their child’s information in the MIIS. If you prefer that your or your child’s immunization history not be shared with other healthcare providers who use the MIIS, you must complete the “MIIS Objection (or Withdrawal of Objection) Form” (mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/cdc/immunization/miis-objection-form.pdf). If at any point you change your mind, you can fill out this same form to withdraw your objection and allow your information to be shared in the MIIS with other health care providers.

For more information about this process at HUHS or to receive/submit the objection form, please contact:

HUHS Health Information Services/Medical Records
75 Mt. Auburn Street, 6th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: (617) 495-2055
Fax: (617) 495-8077

For more information about the MIIS, visit: