Bryn Mawr College Meningitis Vaccination Requirement Information and Waiver

In 2002, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania College and University Student Vaccination Act passed, requiring all students residing in college or university-owned housing to have at least one dose of the meningococcal conjugate vaccine. This vaccine is highly effective at preventing infection of meningitis bacteria serotypes A, C, Y, and W.

It is important to know that there are two types of “meningococcal” or meningitis vaccines. One is the PA state required meningococcal conjugate vaccine, which is recommended to be given to those 11-12 years old with a booster dose recommended at age 16. This vaccine does not protect against meningococcal B, which is the second type of meningitis that has been observed recently at colleges and universities. Teens and young adults are also encouraged to receive the meningococcal B vaccine. Both vaccines are covered by insurance.

All meningitis bacteria can cause illness. It spreads easily through coughing and sneezing, and sharing cups and eating utensils. Common symptoms include high fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, sensitivity to light and confusion. In rare instances, it may lead to permanent disability and even death. College students, especially those living in residence halls, are more prone to contracting the disease because of their proximity to each other on a regular basis.

While no vaccine protects against disease 100% of the time, the Meningitis ACYW vaccine and the Meningitis B vaccines both protect most people from becoming ill with the meningitis caused by meningitis A,C,Y, and W and meningitis B.

After careful consideration, students may decline vaccination. If a student waiving vaccination is under the age of 18, the student and the parent or guardian must sign a waiver declining the vaccine after reviewing the information regarding the disease.

Waiver of meningitis vaccination:

I have read and understand the risks to declining vaccination against the common forms of meningitis that affect college students. These risks include rapid illness, disability, and even death. I am declining vaccination knowing I may receive the vaccine through Bryn Mawr College Health Center at any time in the future.

Student Name: (print) ______________________________________________
Student Signature: ___________________________________________ Date: ___________

If under age 18, parent/guardian name: (print) ______________________________________________
Parent/Guardian Signature: ______________________________________ Date: ___________