



EDGEWOOD COLLEGE

Wellness Center

HEALTH SERVICES

DATE: 2023-2024 Academic Year

TO: Incoming Students, Parents/Guardians

RE: Hepatitis B and Meningococcal Vaccine

The General Assembly of the State of Wisconsin mandates that each public or private postsecondary institution in the state provide information concerning Hepatitis B infection to all students entering the institution for the first time. Those students who will be living in on-campus housing must also be informed about the risk of meningococcal meningitis infection. The law does not require that students receive vaccination for enrollment. Furthermore, the institution is not required by law to provide vaccination and/or reimbursement for the vaccine. The required information below includes the risk factors and dangers of each disease as well as information on the availability and effectiveness of the respective vaccines for persons who are at-risk for the diseases. The information concerning these diseases is from the Centers for Disease Control and the American College Health Association.

Hepatitis B (HBV) Immunization

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a serious viral infection of the liver that can lead to chronic liver disease, cirrhosis, liver cancer, liver failure, and even death. The disease is transmitted by blood and or body fluids and many people will have no symptoms when they develop the disease. The primary risk factors for Hepatitis B are sexual activity and intravenous drug use. Hepatitis B vaccine is available to all age groups to prevent Hepatitis B viral infection. A series of three doses of vaccine is required for optimal protection. The HBV vaccine has a record of safety and is believed to confer lifelong immunity in most cases.

Meningococcal Meningitis

Meningococcal disease is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection, presenting as either meningitis (infection of membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord) or meningococemia (blood infection). Meningococcal disease affects about 3,000 Americans each year and is responsible for about 300 deaths annually. The disease is spread by airborne transmission, primarily by coughing. The disease onset is rapid and without warning. Expedient intervention and treatment are required to avoid serious illness and or death. The duration of protection is approximately three to five years. The vaccine is very safe and adverse reactions are mild and infrequent. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that college students (particularly those who live in dormitories or residence halls) be informed about meningococcal disease and the benefits of vaccination and those students who wish to reduce their risk for meningococcal disease be immunized.

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For more information about Meningococcal Meningitis and Hepatitis B disease and vaccine, please contact your local health care provider or consult the Center for Disease Control and Prevention Web Site at [www.cdc.gov/health/default.htm]