

# Information about Meningococcal Disease, Meningococcal Vaccines, Vaccination Requirements and the Waiver for Students at Colleges and Residential Schools



College s: Massachusetts requires all newly enrolled full-time students 21 years of age and under attending a  
possible copy fee of \$0.15 per page (bel)-9 (o)-12.2 (w)9.2 ( a)-12.2 (nd s)-8.1 (i)-8.9 (gn t)-13.2 (he )-12.2 (w)-2.8 (ai)-8.9 (v)4 (er)-6

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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,

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.

