Deerfoot Lodge, 2017

Dear Parent:

This letter is to inform you about meningococcal disease, a potentially fatal bacterial infection commonly referred to as meningococcal meningitis. New York State Public Health Law (NYS PHL) §2167 and Subpart 7-2 of the State Sanitary Code requires overnight children's camps to distribute information about meningococcal disease and vaccination to all campers who attend camp for 7 or more consecutive nights.

Deerfoot Lodge is required to maintain a record of the following for each camper.

- A response to receipt of meningococcal disease and vaccine information signed by the camper's parent or guardian; AND EITHER
- A record of meningococcal meningitis immunization OR
- An acknowledgement of meningococcal disease risks and refusal of meningococcal meningitis immunization signed by the camper's parent or guardian.

A response is required for each camper. Your response is recorded in the health information procedure on CampDoc.com, which camper parents complete for each camper.

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial illness. It is a leading cause of bacterial meningitis in children 2 through 18 years old in the United States Meningitis is an infection of the covering of the brain and the spinal cord

Meningococcal disease also causes blood infections. About 1,000 - 1,200 people get meningococcal disease each year in the U.S. Even when they are treated with antibiotics, 10-15% of these people die. Of those who live, another 11%-19% lose their arms or legs, have problems with their nervous systems, become deaf, or suffer seizures or strokes.

Anyone can get meningococcal disease. But it is most common in infants less than one year of age and people 16-21 years. Children with certain medical conditions, such as lack of a spleen, have an increased risk of getting meningococcal disease. College freshmen living in dorms are also at increased risk.

Meningococcal infections can be treated with drugs such as penicillin. Still, many people who get the disease die from it, and many others are affected for life. This is why preventing the disease through use of meningococcal vaccine is important for people at highest risk.

There are two kinds of meningococcal vaccine in the U.S. Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (**MCV4**) is the preferred vaccine for people 55 years of age and younger. For example, 2 MCV4 vaccines are Menactra™ and Menveo™.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend two doses of MCV4 for all adolescents 11 through 18 years of age: the first dose at 11 or 12 years of age, with a booster dose at age 16. Adolescents in this age group with HIV infection should get three doses: 2 doses 2 months apart at 11 or 12 years, plus a booster at age 16.

If the first dose (or series) is given between 13 and 15 years of age, the booster should be given between 16 and 18. If the first dose (or series) is given after the 16 1hbirthday, a booster is not needed. Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (**MPSV4**) has been available since the 1970s. It is the only meningococcal vaccine licensed for people older than 55. The trade name of MPSV4 is Menomune.

Both vaccines can prevent 4 types of meningococcal disease, including 2 of the 3 types most common in the United States and a type that causes epidemics in Africa. There are other types of meningococcal disease; the vaccines do not protect against these.

Information about the availability and cost of the vaccine can be obtained from your health care provider.

I encourage you to carefully review the enclosed materials. The required Meningococcal Vaccination Response Form is part of the CampDoc Health Records Procedure. You will indicate your response when you provide your camper health information at CampDoc.com. Contact Camp Nurse, Sally Baum, at JoNurse@deerfoot.org, with any questions

To learn more about meningitis and the vaccine, please consult your child's physician. You can also find information about the disease at the website of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdcqov/vaccines/vd-vac/meninq/default.htm.

Sincerely,

Chief Ron Mackey

Meningococcal Disease

Last Reviewed: July 2011

- Version en español
- Additional Information on Meningococcal Disease and College Students - cdc.gov

What is meningococcal disease?
Meningococcal disease is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream or meninges (a thin lining covering the brain and spinal cord) caused by the meningococcus germ.

Who gets meningococcal disease?
Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but it is more common in infants and children. For some adolescents, such as first-year college students living in dormitories, there is an increased risk of meningococcal disease. Every year in the United States approximately 2,500 people are infected and 300 die from the disease Other persons at increased risk include household contacts of a person known to have had this disease, immunocompromised people, and people traveling to parts of the world where meningococcal meningitis is prevalent

How is the meningococcus germ spread?
The meningococcus germ is spread by direct close contact with nose or throat discharges of an infected person.

What are the symptoms?
High fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck and a rash are symptoms of meningococcal disease. The symptoms may appear two to 10 days after exposure, but usually within five days. Among people who develop meningococcal disease, 10 to 15 percent die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics Of those who live, permanent brain damage, hearing loss, kidney failure, loss of arms or legs, or chronic nervous system problems can occur.

What is the treatment for meningococcal disease?
Antibiotics, such as penicillin G or ceftriaxone, can be used to treat people with meningococcal disease.

Should people who have been in contact with a diagnosed case of meningococcal meningitis be treated?
Only people who have been in close contact (household members, intimate contacts, health care personnel performing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, daycare center playmates, etc.) need to be considered for preventive treatment. Such people are usually advised to obtain a prescription for a special antibiotic (either rifampin, ciprofloxacin or ceftriaxone) from their physician. Casual contact, as might occur in a regular classroom, office or factory setting, is not usually significant enough to cause concern

Is there a vaccine to prevent meningococcal meningitis?
There are three vaccines available for the prevention of meningitis. The preferred vaccine for people ages 2-55 years is Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4). This vaccine is licensed as Menactra (sanofi pasteur) and Menveo (Novartis). Meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4; Menomune [sanofi pasteur]), should be used for adults ages 56 and older. The vaccines are 85 to 100 percent effective in preventing the four kinds of meningococcus germ (types A, C, Y, W-135). These four types cause about 70 percent of the disease in the United States. Because the vaccines do not include type B, which accounts for about one-third of cases in adolescents, they do not prevent all cases of meningococcal disease.

Is the vaccine safe? Are there adverse side effects to the vaccine?
The three vaccines available to prevent meningococcal meningitis are safe and effective. However, the vaccines may cause mild and infrequent side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to two days.

Who should get the meningococcal vaccine?
The vaccine is routinely recommended for all adolescents ages 11-12 years, all unvaccinated adolescents 13-18 years, and persons 19-21 years who are enrolling in college. The vaccine is also recommended for people ages 2 years and older who have had their spleen removed or have other chronic illnesses, as well as some laboratory workers and travelers to endemic areas of the world.

Who needs a booster dose of meningococcal vaccine?
CDC recommends that children age 11 or 12 years be routinely, vaccinated with Menactra or Menveo and receive a booster dose at age 16 years. Adolescents who receive the first dose at age 13-15 years should receive a one-time booster dose, preferably at ages 16-18 years. Teens who receive their first dose of meningococcal conjugate vaccine at or after age 16 years do not need a booster dose, as long as they have no risk factors.

All people who remain at highest risk for meningococcal infection should receive additional booster doses. If the person is age 56 years or older, they should receive Menomune.

How do I get more information about meningococcal disease and vaccination?
Contact your physician or your student health service. Additional information is also available on the websites of the New York State Department of Health, http://www.health.state.ny.us/; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, http://www.cdc.gov/DiseasesConditions/; and the American College Health Association, http://www.acha.org.au/info/generaI/Home/get/0/0/.

MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS VACCINATION RESPONSE FORM

New York State Public Health Law requires that a parent or guardian of campers who attend an overnight children's camp for seven (7) or more consecutive nights, complete and return the following form to the camp.

Check one box and *sign* below.

❒ My child has had the meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), for example Menactra or Menveo.

Date received:_____

[Note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend two doses of MCV4 for all adolescents 1 1 through 18 years of age: the first dose at 1 1 or 12 years of age, with a booster dose at age 16. Adolescents in this age group with HIV infection should get three doses: 2 doses 2 months apart at 11 or 12 years, plus a booster at age 16. If the first dose (or series) is given between 13 and 15 years of age, the booster should be given between 16 and 18. If the first dose (or series) is given after the 16th birthday, a booster is not needed.]

❒I have read, or have had explained to me, the information regarding meningococcal meningitis disease. I understand the risks of not receiving the vaccine. I have decided that my child will not obtain immunization against meningococcal meningitis disease.

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Camper's Name Date of Birth

Mailing Address:

Parent/Guardian Email Address (optional)