



Dear Student/Parent,

Maxim Health Systems will be collaborating with Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, to provide an immunization clinic for the prevention of **Meningitis, Hepatitis B and MMR** (measles/mumps/rubella) on. The costs of the vaccinations will be \$125 for Meningitis (Menactra), \$65 for MMR and \$85 for Hepatitis B (Hepatitis B is a 3 shot series and will be billed for each shot. The 2<sup>nd</sup> shot is due 1 month later and the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5 months after the first.) Cash, Checks and Credit card payments will be accepted the day of the immunization clinic.

Florida state law (Section 339. Section 1006.69, Florida Statutes) requires institutions of higher education to provide detailed information on these diseases to their newly accepted students. In addition, the law requires that students who live in university-managed housing must either document the vaccinations for Meningitis and Hepatitis B or sign a waiver to decline immunizations.  
**On February 11, 2005, The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended the meningitis vaccination for children 11 & 12 years of age, teens entering high school and college freshman.**

**What you need to know**

Outbreaks of meningitis have increased among young adolescents in recent years; high school students are at increased danger from this serious and potentially life-threatening infection. Data from the CDC indicates that meningococcal disease rates begin to rise during adolescence and peak between the ages of 15-24 years of age.

**About the vaccine**

Protect younger adolescents before the time of increased risk with the newly approved Menactra vaccine. Menactra was licensed by the FDA on January 14, 2005 and is the first quadrivalent conjugate vaccine licensed in the U.S for the meningococcal disease. It has been proven to protect against meningococcal disease caused by N. meningitidis serogroups A, C, Y and W-135 in persons 11 to 55 years of age. The exciting part about Menactra being a conjugate vaccine is it will improve the duration of protection. Studies have shown that conjugate vaccines like Menactra last longer than polysaccharide vaccines such as the meningitis vaccine Menomune. The vaccine will protect your son or daughter against meningococcal disease for 3-5 years without a booster. Menactra can greatly reduce the risk of getting the very serious and potentially deadly disease meningococcal meningitis. In fact, up to 83% of the cases in adolescents are caused by vaccine-preventable strains of bacteria. Menactra was licensed for use in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration finally making it possible to protect young people as they enter high school. **The CDC recommends Menactra as the most effect strategy towards reducing meningococcal disease incidence in adolescence and young adulthood.**

**Safety**

You should know that the meningococcal vaccine has been demonstrated to be safe and adverse reactions are mild and infrequent. These consist primarily of redness and pain at the injection site and can last up to two days. In some cases patients experienced fatigue or headache after receiving the vaccine. Menactra vaccine can be administered at the same time as the adolescent Td booster.

**About Meningitis**

**What is meningococcal meningitis?** Meningococcal meningitis is a potentially fatal bacterial infection that causes inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

**What are the symptoms?** Symptoms are similar to those of influenza. Fever, severe headache, stiff neck, rash, nausea, vomiting and lethargy may occur. The infection can lead to permanent disabilities or even death.

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**How is the disease spread?** The infection is spread by direct contact with infected individuals (for example, sharing a glass or cigarette or kissing). The infection is also spread through the air in respiratory secretions by coughing or sneezing.

**Who is at risk for meningitis?** A rising outbreak has occurred in schools, universities, and other organizations based settings, according to the American College Health Association.

### **What parents should do**

Encourage your son or daughter to get immunized. Have your student attend the clinic or check with their physician for availability of the vaccine. At the time of immunization your son or daughter will receive a copy of the Immunization Consent Form confirming that the immunization was administered. Make sure you hold on to this consent form, it will be a medical record of when your child was immunized. Get involved and learn more about Meningitis and the Menactra vaccine by visiting [studentshots.com](http://studentshots.com) and [nmaus.org](http://nmaus.org).

### **Who should not get vaccinated**

Latex-sensitive individuals should not receive the vaccine as well as any persons with a bleeding disorder, such as hemophilia or thrombocytopenia, or persons on anticoagulant therapy unless the potential benefit clearly outweighs the risk of administration. The ACIP has published guidelines for vaccination of persons with recent acute illness (refer to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)). ***If your son or daughter was immunized within the last three years, he/she does not need to be re-immunized.***

**ALSO**, students allergic to thimerosal or other components of the vaccine should **not** get the vaccine. Students with a history of Guillain Barre Syndrome should **not** get the vaccine. Students with an acute illness should wait until they recover. Pregnant women should consult their private physicians.

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**HEPATITIS B (HBV)** - This vaccination series is given as 3 doses over a 6-month period to protect those at risk.

**What is Hepatitis B?** A serious infection of the liver caused by the hepatitis B virus. It affects all age groups and can lead to liver disease, liver cancer and death in many of those afflicted.

**How common is Hepatitis B?** Every year in the United States, approximately 240,000 people are infected with hepatitis B. Approximately 75% of all reported hepatitis B cases occur between the ages of 15 and 39 years.

**How is Hepatitis B transmitted and why are College students at risk?** Hepatitis B is transmitted directly and indirectly through infected body fluids such as blood, semen, and vaginal secretions; the infection can also be picked up through mucous membranes and broken skin. Although hepatitis B is commonly transmitted by sexual contact, it can also be picked up through:

- Exposure to the blood of an infected person through contact sports
- Repeatedly sharing an infected person's razor, toothbrush or earrings
- Travel to a high-risk area
- Use of illicit injectable drugs
- Potentially through contaminated needles used for tattooing or piercing.

**About the Vaccine / Side Effects:** No live virus is present in the vaccine so you **cannot** get the virus through the vaccine. Side effects that have been reported from the vaccine include soreness, swelling and redness at the injection site. Very rarely, systemic symptoms that may occur are headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, slight fever, transient malaise, muscle soreness and cold-like symptoms.

**INDIVIDUALS WITH KNOWN ALLERGIES OR SENSITIVITY** to Thimerosal (a trace amount is in the vaccine), which is also known to be in products used to disinfect the skin prior to surgeries, and those individuals with reactions to prior HBV immunizations, should refer to their Physician prior to receiving this HBV Series.

### **Still have questions?**

Questions about the vaccine can be answered by calling 1-800-VACCINE, logging on to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.studentshots.com](http://www.studentshots.com) or contacting your physician.