



STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

This information is to inform you about meningococcal disease, a potentially fatal bacterial infection commonly referred to as meningitis, and the current recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) along with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

Meningitis is rare. However, when it strikes, its flu-like symptoms make diagnosis difficult. If not treated early, meningitis can lead to swelling of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal column as well as severe and permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb amputation, and even death. The disease strikes about 4000 Americans each year and claims about 500 lives. Between 100 and 125 meningitis cases occur on college campuses nationwide and as many as 15 students will die from the disease.

The Claremont Colleges, in an effort to keep the campus safe and as healthy as possible, now require all incoming freshmen to show proof of meningococcal vaccination. The vaccine is available at Student Health Services any day by appointment. For more information, please feel free to contact our health service and/or consult your health care provider. You can also find information about this disease on our web site, www.services.claremont.edu/shs/, which links to the website for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), <http://www.cdc.gov/> and the American College Health Association website, <http://www.acha.org/meningitis>.

Please note that the required Meningococcal Tetravalent (Men ACWY) vaccination is different from the recommended Meningococcal B vaccination. All students need to have had a Meningococcal Tetravalent vaccination, with a booster dose given at age 16 or older. Meningococcal B vaccinations are strongly recommended for all students, but are not required at this time.

Serving: Pomona College 1887 • Claremont Graduate University 1925 • Scripps College 1926 • Claremont McKenna College 1946 • Harvey Mudd College 1955 • Pitzer College 1963 • Keck Graduate Institute 1997

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