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MENINGITIS B OUTBREAK AT UW-MADISON IS SERIOUS REMINDER FOR ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS TO GET VACCINATED

Walgreens Stores Across Indiana are Stocked with MenB Vaccine

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 1, 2016

Three University of Wisconsin-Madison students are currently hospitalized with meningitis B, a very serious and potentially fatal strain of meningococcal disease – a grim reminder of the importance for college students throughout Indiana to get vaccinated against the disease.

Below, find recent communication from UW-Madison's Executive Director of University Health Services, Dr. Sarah Van Orman, about the importance of getting vaccinated.

The meningitis B bacteria – a strain that accounts for 50 percent of meningococcal disease cases – is easily spread, making college campuses a prime target. Dorm living, shared bathrooms, crowded events, sharing food and drinks are all catalysts for spreading the bacteria. Since the spring of 2013, meningitis B outbreaks have occurred on six major college campuses in the U.S.

Indiana State Law requires that all universities and colleges inform students of the risks associated with meningococcal disease and the benefits of vaccination. However, this required information does not specifically address the B strain of the disease. The vaccination specific for meningitis B has only been available since 2014, causing some confusion among parents and providers about its necessity given other meningitis vaccines. At University of Wisconsin last week, health authorities were urging every student to get the multi-dose B vaccine.

For more information about meningitis B and the *Beware of B* campaign, which aims to raise awareness about the disease and the importance of the vaccination, visit www.vaccinateindiana.org/beware-of-b/. Anyone seeking immunization against meningitis B should be able to access the vaccine through their doctor or by visiting one of the following Walgreens stores in Indiana:

Ball State University

Walgreens Store #05803
2720 W. Jackson St.
Muncie, IN 47303
765-287-8533

Butler University

Walgreens Store #03066
5675 N. Michigan Rd
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-475-0372

Indiana State University

Walgreens Store #03486
1300 Wabash Ave
Terre Haute, IN 47807
812-234-5147

Indiana University

Walgreens Store #07676
1900 S. Ohio St.
Martinsville, IN 46151
765-349-2340

Indiana Wesleyan University

Walgreens Store # 9279
2620 S. Western Ave
Marion, IL 46953
765-668-0208

Purdue University

Walgreens Store #06456
1000 Sagamore Pkwy
West Lafayette, IN 47906
765-497-2300

BEWARE OF 

University of Evansville

Walgreens Store #10939
4828 Davis Lant Dr.
Evansville, IN 47715
812-475-9541

University of Notre Dame

Walgreens Store #15598
107 St. Liam Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556
574-239-3847

Valparaiso University

Walgreens Store #03680
1903 Calumet Ave
Valparaiso, IN 46383
219-462-6172

University of Indianapolis

Walgreens Store #02952
4001 Madison Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46227
317-780-1990

Walgreens Store #10184

1351 N. Ironwood Dr.
South Bend, IN 46615
574-234-5046

Vincennes University

Walgreens Store #3530
505 College Ave.
Vincennes, IN 47591
812-882-3896

**University of Southern
Indiana**

Walgreens Store #10939
4828 Davis Lant Dr.
Evansville, IN 47715
812-475-9541

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Parent Program

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Dear parents and family members,

This week, a third UW-Madison student was hospitalized with meningococcal disease serogroup B. This student is being treated in a local hospital. [UHS](#) is working with Public Health Madison & Dane County to notify individuals who have been in close contact with the student so appropriate preventive care can be provided. Additional details are not being disclosed out of respect for the medical privacy of the student.

UHS, in consultation with local and state health officials, continues to strongly urge that all UW-Madison undergraduate students through age 25 get vaccinated against meningococcal disease serogroup B. To date, more than 12,000 students – about 41 percent of the undergraduate population – have received first doses of the vaccine. You have played an integral role in this and we are grateful for your partnership.

If your student has not already been vaccinated, **please urge them to get vaccinated today**. We are exercising an abundance of caution to protect the health and safety of our students.

Vaccine will be offered to students **today** at the SERF, 715 W. Dayton St., until 5 p.m. Additional clinics will be offered there Monday, Oct. 31, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 12 to 8 p.m.

As this weekend's Halloween festivities approach, please remind your student to practice good respiratory hygiene. **Students should not share anything that comes into contact with the mouth such as drinking glasses, eating utensils, smoking materials, cosmetics or lip balm.**

Meningococcal bacteria are spread through close contact with an infected person's oral or nasal secretions. This disease is not spread through the air, in food or water, or by casual contact in bathrooms, classrooms, restaurants, bars or other social settings.

Most students are immunized against serogroups ACYW but very few students are vaccinated against serogroup B. Serogroup B vaccine has only recently become available and it is not routinely recommended.

As with other vaccines, it takes two weeks to achieve an immune response for protection. During that time, students should continue to watch for symptoms, which include high fever (greater than 101 degrees Fahrenheit), accompanied by severe headache, neck stiffness and confusion. Vomiting or rashes may also occur. Anyone with these symptoms should contact a health care provider or go to an emergency room immediately.

Questions from the campus community can be directed to health@wisc.edu. Students who are concerned or have questions about their health or are in need of counseling or support are encouraged to contact UHS at 608-265-5600. For students experiencing symptoms after hours, the UHS nurse line is available at 608-265-5600 (option 1). For more information about meningitis, including upcoming clinics, visit uhs.wisc.edu/meningitis.

Sincerely,

Sarah Van Orman, MD, MMM

Executive Director, University Health Services

UW-Madison Parent Program

Union South
1308 W. Dayton Street
Madison, WI 53715
Contact Us

