



# Walnut Hill College

Founded in 1974 as The Restaurant School

## **Meningitis Vaccination Waiver**

**Submit this waiver if you decide not to receive the Meningitis vaccination**

### **About Meningitis**

Bacterial meningitis is a serious, potentially deadly disease that can progress extremely fast. It is an inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. The bacteria that cause meningitis can also infect the blood. This disease strikes about 1 in 20,000 people each year with the highest incident rate in 16-25 year olds. There is a treatment, but those who survive may develop severe health problems or disabilities.

Symptoms of bacterial meningitis:

- High fever
- Rash or purple patches on skin
- Light sensitivity
- Confusion and sleepiness
- Lethargy, weakness, exhaustion
- Severe headache
- Vomiting
- Stiff neck
- Nausea
- Seizures

There may be a rash of tiny red-purple spots caused by bleeding under the skin. These can occur anywhere on the body. The more symptoms, the higher the risk, so when these symptoms appear seek immediate medical attention.

Diagnosis is made by a medical provider and is usually based on a combination of clinical symptoms and laboratory results from spinal fluid and blood tests. Early diagnosis and treatment can greatly improve the likelihood of recovery.

The disease is transmitted when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing, or by sharing drinking containers, utensils, cigarettes, toothbrushes, lipstick, lip balm, etc.) or come in contact with respiratory or throat secretions.

Possible complications of the disease include:

- Permanent brain damage
- Kidney failure
- Learning disability
- Hearing loss, blindness
- Death (in 8 to 24 hours from perfectly well to dead)
- Limb damage (fingers, toes, arms, legs) that requires amputation
- Gangrene
- Coma
- Convulsions

Treatments include antibiotics. However, permanent disability or death can still occur. The vaccines available are safe and highly effective.

You should get more information about bacterial meningitis from your health care provider.

Walnut Hill College urges all of its dormitory students to speak with their health care provider and to seriously consider the full vaccination against all serogroups (A, C, W, Y and B) of meningococcal disease. If you receive the vaccination you must forward a copy of the doctor's documentation to the address below.

However, the law does permit an individual to decide against the vaccination for reasons of conscience or, if your health care provider advises against the vaccination due to a medical contradiction.

If you decide to not obtain the vaccination kindly forward this waiver to:

Office of Admissions  
Walnut Hill College  
4207 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

**Waiver:**

I have read about the dangers of meningitis, the effectiveness of the vaccination but I have decided not to obtain the meningitis vaccination for the following reason (please check):

Reasons of conscience

My health care provider believes there will be a medical contradiction with the vaccination

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Student name – please print

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Student signature

Date

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