

# Meningitis Advisory

Biola University Student Health Center  
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Rev 8/11

**To Parents and Students-**In accordance with California state law, Biola University is required to notify you about meningitis (meningococcal disease) and available vaccination. Please read carefully, sign below and return to the Student Health Center by the time you arrive on campus. This form will be added to your confidential health records at Biola University Student Health Center.

## What is Meningococcal Meningitis?

Meningococcal meningitis is a potentially fatal bacterial infection that causes inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal chord.

## How is the disease spread?

The infection is spread by direct contact with infected individuals, like sharing a drinking glass, eating utensils, or kissing. It is also spread through the exchange of respiratory secretions, like coughing or sneezing. Social aspects of college life, such as close living quarters, students from diverse geographical areas, crowds, and travel to foreign countries are risk factors.

## What are the symptoms?

Early symptoms include 1) high fever 2) severe headache 3) stiff neck 4) rash 5) nausea, vomiting and lethargy 6) flu-like symptoms.

## Can Meningitis be treated?

Meningococcal meningitis can be treated with a number of effective antibiotics. It is important however that treatment be started early in the course of the disease.

## Is there a vaccine against Meningococcal disease?

There is a safe, effective vaccine called Menactra that can provide long term protection against four out of the five strains of the disease.

## What are the side effects of the vaccine? How safe is it?

Menactra vaccine has an excellent safety profile. Side effects are mild and infrequent, consisting primarily of redness and swelling at the injection site, lasting up to two days. The immunization should be deferred during any acute illness. Menactra is preservative free.

If you have any questions regarding the vaccine or disease, please see your doctor or call the Student Health Center at 562-903-4841. More information can be found at the Center for Disease Control website, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

## Is the Meningococcal vaccine required at Biola University?

Yes, Biola University requires all freshman students to receive the meningitis vaccine. Since the incidence of bacterial meningitis rises in college freshmen, Menactra vaccine is offered at the Health Center for your convenience. Call the Health Center for current prices.

## UPDATED Recommendations from the CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices

If you received Menactra between the ages of 11-12 – Booster is recommended at age 16.

If you received Menactra between the ages of 13-15 – Booster is recommended at age 16-18.

## Please check applicable boxes and sign below:

I have received the above information from Biola University Student Health Center

I have already received this vaccination (Please include proof of immunization if not already provided on Entrance Physical Exam form)

I will receive this vaccine at  Private M.D.  Clinic  Biola University SHC  
(Please provide proof of vaccination to the Student Health Center when completed)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Print \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ (If student under age 18)

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Student ID# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_