

Bethany College Meningitis Waiver Form

Name (Printed) _____

BC ID#: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes (meninges) surrounding your brain and spinal cord. The swelling from meningitis typically triggers symptoms such as headache, fever and a stiff neck. Most cases of meningitis in the U.S. are caused by a viral infection, but bacterial and fungal infections are other causes. Some cases of meningitis improve without treatment in a few weeks. Others can be life-threatening and require emergent antibiotic treatment.

Studies have shown that the risk of getting meningitis is approximately 1 in 100,000, but that risk increases anywhere from 9-23 times in students residing in dormitories or community housing. As mentioned above, early symptoms can include but are not limited to sudden high fever, stiff neck, severe headache (different than normal), headache with nausea or vomiting, and confusion or difficulty concentrating. If any of these symptoms occur, especially if they occur together, students are encouraged to seek medication attention immediately.

A vaccine is available and is shown to be 80%-90% effective at preventing meningitis. The vaccine is available through your primary care doctor, Family Health Care Clinic (Lindsborg), or the McPherson County Health Department (McPherson) and is generally covered by insurance. For questions about getting the vaccine please see the nurse in Health Services.

Because of the increased risk for college students living in dormitories/community housing the state of Kansas requires that students must either have copy of their Meningitis vaccination on file (done within the last 5 years), or sign a waiver against receiving the vaccine.

- I have read the above information on meningococcal Meningitis and I am aware of the availability of the vaccine. I am also aware that I am at an increased risk of getting the disease and have decided not to be vaccinated for meningitis.

Students Signature: _____ Date: _____

If student is under the age of 18, signature of parent or legal guardian is required

Signature: _____ Date: _____