

## Information about Meningitis Serogroup B Vaccine

You may be aware of news reports about meningitis cases at some Universities around the United States. The staff of the UW-La Crosse wants to give you information about this illness and what you can do to help prevent the infection.

(Please note—we are ***NOT*** aware of any recent cases of meningococcal meningitis at UW-La Crosse.)

Meningitis—inflammation of the lining surrounding the brain and spinal cord—can be caused by both bacteria and viruses. One serious form is caused by the meningococcal bacteria. Meningococcal bacteria are spread through close contact with an infected person's oral or nasal secretions, such as by sharing cups. The infection is very rare, often comes on suddenly, and can progress rapidly. Meningococcal disease is typically treated with antibiotics.

Here is more information about Meningococcal disease: <http://www.immunize.org/catg.d/p4210.pdf>

Most college students have received a vaccine which helps protect against several types of Meningococcal bacteria that cause meningitis. The most common meningitis vaccine (Menveo or Menactra) covers four strains of the meningococcal bacteria (serogroups A, C, Y, and W).

Several recent cases of meningococcal meningitis on college campuses were not covered by this commonly given meningitis vaccine. A separate, newer vaccine is available that prevents a different subtype of meningococcal disease (serogroup B). The brand names for this vaccine are Trumenba and Bexsero.

Here is more information about Meningococcal vaccine:

<http://www2c.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=9956>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/faqs-parents-adolescent-vaccine.html>

Currently, the CDC does not have a recommendation for ***routine*** vaccination with Meningitis serogroup B vaccine because they have not determined if it is cost effective to make such a recommendation. However, it is considered a ***safe and effective vaccine*** and they do recommend that it be available and considered for anyone wanting to immunize to help prevent this uncommon but serious illness.

If you are interested in receiving the vaccine series for **meningitis B** (Trumenba or Bexsero) you may do so in one of the following ways:

1. Make an appointment at the UW-La Crosse Student Health Center to receive the vaccine. The cost will be charged to your student account. You may receive a receipt to submit to your insurance company. Some insurance companies will reimburse your expense, others may not.

### **Cost at the UW-L Student Health Center:**

Trumenba \$ 120 per dose—series of 3  
Bexsero \$ 155 per dose---- series of 2

You may make an appointment by calling the Student Health Center front desk (608-785-8558) or by making an appointment on the online web portal (<https://myhealth.uwlax.edu>).

2. Make an appointment to receive the vaccine at your local clinic.
3. If you do not have insurance coverage, check with your local county health department or with the La Crosse county health department (608-785-9872) regarding the availability and cost of the vaccine.

If you have further questions, you may contact the SHC (608-785-8558) and ask to speak with a nurse.