

Missouri Western State University  
**Meningitis Immunization Policy**  
**University Policies**  
Approved: 07/18/2017

---

**Purpose:**

College students, especially first-year college students living in residence halls, are at an increased risk for meningococcal disease compared with other persons of the same age. This policy is in compliance with Missouri Senate Bill No. 716, Section 174.335, RSMo, effective July 1, 2015 and revised 2016.

**Policy:**

1. All students who plan to reside in Missouri Western State University on-campus housing are required to receive the meningococcal vaccine unless a signed statement of medical or religious exemption is on file with the Esry Student Health Center.
  - a. A student shall be exempted from the immunization requirement upon signed certification by a doctor licensed under chapter 334, indicating that either the immunization would seriously endanger the student's health or life or the student has documentation of disease or laboratory evidence of immunity to the disease.
  - b. A student shall be exempted from the immunization requirement if the student objects in writing to the institution's administration that the immunization violates their religious beliefs.
2. The Esry Student Health Center shall maintain records on the meningococcal vaccination status of every student residing in on-campus housing at the university.
3. The meningococcal vaccine may be provided by a student's personal physician, or it may be administered in the Esry Student Health Center. The cost of the vaccination is the student's responsibility.
  - a. For students who receive the first dose at age 11- 12 years, a one-time booster dose must be administered, generally at age 16. Students who receive their first dose of meningococcal vaccine at or after age 16 years do not need a booster dose.
4. Information related to a student's health record can be delivered in person to the Esry Student Health Center, faxed to the Health Center (816) 271-4498 or sent via mail to the Esry Student Health Center, Missouri Western State University, 4525 Downs, Drive, St. Joseph, MO 64507.
5. Students are expected to provide either proof of the immunization or have filed a waiver prior to moving in to on-campus housing.
  - a. Students who fail to complete the meningitis immunization or waiver will have a hold placed on their enrollment for the subsequent semester until the immunization has been completed or a waiver is on file.
6. In the case of a confirmed meningitis case, the University will follow the contagious / communicable disease policy.

**Resources:** CDC, Community Settings as a Risk Factor

<https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/>