

To: All Students:

Re: Consumer Immunization information

The American College Health Association has asked us to require that all our incoming students be properly immunized. This is due in part to the fact there have been occurrences of measles and/or rubella on campuses as well as meningitis and hepatitis B across the United States. Below is a list of immunization, ages to receive them, and Bryan College's requirements.

MMR: (2 immunizations)

All students born after 1959 are required to submit documentation of 2 MMR immunizations unless contraindicated by a medical condition, laboratory proven documentation of immunity or contraindicated due to religious beliefs (Since all Tennessee High Schools have required proof of MMR immunization, graduation from Tennessee high school 1999 or after is considered proof of immunization.)

Hepatitis B: (series of 3 vaccines)

The state of Tennessee also requires that students attending a university provide the institution with proof of Hepatitis B vaccination and or of immunity. Hepatitis B is a series of three vaccines. If a student has not been vaccinated against Hepatitis B or has not begun the series, he/she MUST sign a waiver stating that he/she has not received the vaccine. In accordance with the medical authorities, Bryan College strongly recommends immunization against Hepatitis B.

Meningitis: (recommended)

On October 20, 1999, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend that college students, particularly freshmen living in dormitories and residence halls, be educated about meningitis and the benefits of vaccination. The panel based its recommendations on recent studies showing that college students, particularly freshmen living in dormitories, have a six-fold increased risk for meningitis. The recommendation further states that information about the disease and vaccination is appropriate for other undergraduate students who also wish to reduce their risk for the disease. The state of Tennessee requires our institution to provide students with information concerning meningococcal disease and the available vaccine. After this information is reviewed, the student must sign a waiver form if he/she is a resident in on-campus student housing.

Meningitis is a rare but potentially fatal bacterial infection. The disease is expressed as either meningococcal meningitis, an inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord or meningococemia, the presence of bacteria in the blood. Meningococcal disease is transmitted through the air via droplets of respiratory secretions and direct contact with an infected person. Direct contact for these purposes is defined as oral contact with shared items such as cigarettes or drinking glasses or through intimate contact such as kissing. When it strikes, its flu-like symptoms make diagnosis difficult. If not treated early, meningitis can lead to swelling of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal column as well as severe and permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb amputation and even death. Cases of meningitis among teens and young adults 15 to 24 years of age (the age of most college students) have more than doubled since 1991. The disease strikes about 3,000 Americans each year and claims about 300 lives. Between 100 and 125 meningitis cases occur on college

campuses and as many as 15 students will die from the disease. A vaccine is available that protects against four types of the bacteria that cause meningitis in the United States - types A, C, Y and W-135. These types account for nearly two thirds of meningitis cases among college students. The vaccine is 85% to 100% effective in preventing the previously listed types of bacteria. The vaccine is safe, with mild and infrequent side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site. After vaccination, immunity develops within 7 to 10 days and remains effective for at least 10 years to life. As with any vaccine, vaccination against meningitis may not protect 100% of all susceptible individuals.

***All of these vaccines are available at Bryan PolyClinic. There is a charge associated with each vaccination.**

To complete your immunization information click on the following link:

http://www.bryanpolyclinic.com/index.php?option=com_facileforms&Itemid=40

NOTE: Any student for whom we do not have the above information will be required to be vaccinated at their expense prior to registration. Those students who cannot receive vaccinations for medical reasons should send a letter to that effect to the Bryan PolyClinic , Bryan College Box 7647, 721 Bryan Dr, Dayton, TN, 37321-6275. Or you can FAX your letter to: 423-285-1691

More Information about immunization requirements:

<http://www.vaccineinformation.org/index.asp>

<http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/about/faq.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm>