Hepatitis B

Hepatitis B is a strain of hepatitis affecting liver function, leading to serious illness and possible death. Often, persons infected with hepatitis B never fully recover and can carry the virus and infect others the rest of their life. A person can be infected with hepatitis B and have no symptoms.

How is hepatitis B spread?

• direct contact with blood or body fluids
• exposure to contaminated needles (intravenous drug use)
• sexual contact

Who should get the vaccine?

The hepatitis B vaccine is a series of 3 injections and is recommended for:

• all adolescents and young adults
• athletes involved in contact sports (football, hockey, wrestling, basketball, lacrosse)
• students enrolled in health care studies (nursing, occupational & physical therapy)

Who provides the vaccine?

Contact your physician or the student health center at your college/university for availability or the Health District for a referral.

Meningococcal Disease

Meningococcal disease, often referred to as bacterial meningitis, is an infectious disease caused by bacteria. The infection affects fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. This serious illness has a sudden onset, is highly contagious, and often results in death.

How is meningococcal disease spread?

• through the exchange of respiratory and throat secretions (coughing, kissing)
• direct contact with someone infected with the disease

Who should get the vaccine?

The vaccine is effective for 2 of 3 types of meningococcal disease and is highly recommended for college students living in dormitories or group settings.

Who provides the vaccine?

Contact your physician or the student health center at your college/university for availability or the Health District for a referral.