



Toccoa Falls College Meningitis Waiver Form

Meningitis: According to Georgia Law, Toccoa Falls College requires students taking 6 or more credit hours to sign a document stating that they have received a vaccination against meningococcal disease or reviewed the information and declined to be vaccinated. This information is required by law to be on file with your health records.

Meningococcal Disease Facts

Meningococcal disease is a serious infection caused by bacteria, most commonly causing meningitis (an infection of the membranes that surround the spinal cord and brain) or sepsis (an infection of blood that affects many organ systems).

- College freshmen, particularly those living in dorms, have a modestly increased risk of getting the disease compared with other persons of the same age. Up to 100 cases occur among the 15 million college students in the United States each year, with 5-15 deaths.
- Bacteria are spread from person-to-person through secretions from the mouth and nose, transmitted through close contact. Casual contact or breathing in the same air space is not considered sufficient for transmission.
- Common symptoms include: stiff neck, headache, fever, sensitivity to light, sleepiness, confusion and seizures. Invasive meningococcal disease, or blood infection with the organism, causes fever and rash.
- The disease can be treated with antibiotics, but treatment must be started early. Even with treatment, some patients may die. Survivors may be left with a severe disability such as the loss of a limb.
- Immunization against meningococcal disease will decrease the risk of the disease.

Meningococcal Vaccine Facts

- A meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine is available for those who wish to pay for it. (Usually through your County Health Department).
- Vaccine protects against 4 of the 5 most common types of meningococcal bacteria and protection typically lasts 3-5 years.
- Vaccination may decrease the risk of meningococcal disease; however, it does not eliminate the risk because the vaccine does not protect against all types of meningococcal bacteria. Approximately 50-70% of disease among college students is likely to be vaccine-preventable.

I have read the above information concerning the Meningococcal Disease Georgia Law, disease facts and vaccine facts. I understand the seriousness of this disease and that immunization will decrease the risk, yet desire to waive having the vaccination.

Print Student Full Name _____

Date of Birth ____/____/____

Student Signature _____

Date _____

If you are under 18, parental or guardian signature is required.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Mail To: Student Health Center
Toccoa Falls College
107 Kincaid Dr. MSC 787
Toccoa Falls, Ga. 30598

OR

Fax To: 706-282-6026

OR

Email To: health@tfc.edu

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