



Toccoa Falls College Meningitis Waiver Form

According to Georgia Law, Toccoa Falls College requires students taking 6 or more credit hours on campus to have received immunization (ACWY) against meningococcal disease OR reviewed important medical information AND sign a waiver declining to be vaccinated against meningitis. 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.
- Meningococcal disease can spread from person to person through close contact (coughing or kissing) or lengthy contact, especially among people living in the same household.
- 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 (ACWY) vaccine is available which covers the most common types of meningitis. Many insurance companies cover immunizations under their preventative medicine benefits.
- Protection typically lasts 3-5 years.
- Vaccination decreases the risk of meningococcal disease. Approximately 50-70% of disease among college students is likely to be vaccine-preventable.
- Typical dosing of meningitis vaccine is 1 dose at age 12 and 1 dose after the age of 16. OR just 1 dose after the age of 16. Meningitis vaccine is not recommended after the age of 23.

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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