

Five Points Mission – Camp Olmsted

475 Riverside Drive, Room 1922

New York, NY 10115

Telephone: (212) 870-3084

Dear Parent:

I am writing to inform you about meningococcal disease, a potentially fatal bacterial infection commonly referred to as meningitis, and a new law in New York State. Camp Olmsted is required to maintain a record of the following for each camper:

- A response to receipt of meningococcal meningitis disease and vaccine information signed by the camper's parent or guardian; AND
- Information on the availability and cost of meningococcal meningitis vaccine (MenACWY) AND EITHER
- A record of meningococcal meningitis immunization within the past 10 years; OR
- An acknowledgement of meningococcal meningitis disease risks and refusal of meningococcal meningitis immunization signed by the camper's parent or guardian.

Meningitis is rare. However, 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.

A vaccine is available that protects against four types of the bacteria that cause meningitis in the United States – type A, C, Y and W. These types account for nearly two thirds of meningitis cases among teens and young adults. Information about the availability and cost of the vaccine can be obtained from your health care provider and by visiting the manufacturer's website at www.cdc.gov/vaccines. I encourage you to carefully review the enclosed materials. Please complete the Meningococcal Vaccination Response Form and return it to Camp Olmsted Staff.

To learn more about meningitis and the vaccine, consult your child's physician. You can also find information about the disease at the New York State Department of Health website: www.health.state.ny.us, and <http://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/about/index.html>

FAQ About Meningococcal Disease

What is Meningococcal Disease?	A severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream or meninges (a thin lining covering the brain and spinal cord) caused by the meningococcus germ.
What are the symptoms?	High fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck & a rash. Symptoms may appear 2 – 10 days after exposure, but usually within 5 days.
Who gets Meningococcal Disease and how is the meningococcus germ spread?	Anyone can get Meningococcal Disease, but it is more common in infants & children. For some adolescents, such as 1 st year college students living in dormitories, there is an increased risk of Meningococcal Disease. The meningococcus germ is spread by direct close contact with nose or throat discharge of an infected person.
Is there a vaccine to protect against meningococcal meningitis?	There are 2 kinds of meningococcal vaccines licensed by the FDA for protection against serogroups A, C, W and Y: meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MenACWY) and meningococcal polysaccharide vaccine (MPSV4). Meningococcal ACWY vaccines can help prevent Meningococcal Disease caused by serogroups A, C, W and Y
Who should get the Meningococcal vaccine?	Two doses of MenACWY are routinely recommended for adolescents 11 – 18 years old: the 1 st dose at 11 or 12 yrs old, with a booster dose at age 16. As of September 1, 2016 the meningococcal vaccine is required for school entry for all students entering 7th and 12th grade. Without it, they can't start school. Check with your doctor. Even kids who have had a shot before may need a booster to start school. To learn more visit www.health.ny.gov/immunize.

Sincerely,

Camp Olmsted Staff

CAMP OLMSTED MENINGOCOCCAL MENINGITIS FORM

Dear Parents,

New York State Public Health Law requires the operator of an overnight children's camp to maintain a completed response form for every camper who attends camp for seven (7) or more days. Camp Olmsted is also requiring all day campers complete this form.

Please note, your child is not required to get the meningococcal meningitis vaccination to attend camp. However, it is strongly suggested by NYS Department of Health that any child over the age of 11 do so. We do not require that your child have the vaccination however, Camp Olmsted is required to provide you with information to help you make an informed decision (see reverse side) and have you complete a meningococcal meningitis form informing us of your child's immunization status relative to this vaccination.

CHECK ONE BOX AND SIGN BELOW.

- My child has had the meningococcal meningitis immunization (MenACWY) within the past 10 years.

Date received: _____

Note: The vaccine's protection lasts for approximately 3 to 5 years. Revaccination may be considered within 3-5 years.

- I have read, or have had explained to me, the information regarding meningococcal meningitis disease. I understand the risks of not receiving the vaccine. I have decided that my child will not obtain immunization against meningococcal meningitis disease.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Camper's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Mailing Address: _____
