

## About the Serogroup B Meningococcal Vaccine

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### How do I get vaccinated at MHC?

Please call to schedule an appointment 413-538-2121 #1

### Is there enough vaccine for all the targeted students?

We will have an ample supply of vaccine for all those who wish to receive it. We have been assured that there are no shortages from the manufacturer.

### Who should receive the vaccine? Is it required?

College Health Services strongly recommends all students attending classes at UMass receive vaccinations for serogroup B meningococcal disease. Anyone with asplenia, sickle cell disease, a complement deficiency, or who are taking the medication Solaris should also be vaccinated. Requirements for matriculation to school are set by the state health department; at this time the state recommends but does not require that students be vaccinated against serogroup B meningococcal disease. Any MHC student who wishes to receive the Meningitis B vaccine may attend these clinics.

### Meningococcal Vaccines

Two MenB vaccines were approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 2014 and 2015. Either one can be used during an outbreak:

- Bexsero® is a 2-dose series administered at least one month apart from each other.
- Trumenba® is a 3-dose series administered at 0, 1, and 6 months apart from each other.

It is important to note that the two vaccines are not interchangeable; if you start with one vaccine the series must be completed with the same vaccine.

There is no preference in terms of effectiveness for one vaccine over the other. College Health Services will primarily be using Bexsero® because of its shorter administration schedule.

Most students have already been vaccinated with one of the two FDA approved vaccines against 4 serogroups: A, C, W, Y (MCV4) meningococcal conjugate vaccines. These vaccines have been available for many years and are required for matriculation to college:

- Menveo®
- Menactra®

If you met this requirement by waiving the vaccine, you may want to consider receiving one of these vaccines through an appointment outside of the walk-in clinic.

### What vaccine will be administered at the vaccination clinic on campus?

The Vaccination Clinic that was hosted administered Bexsero® vaccine. This is a 2 dose series, administered **at least one month apart**.

### How will the students receive the second dose of Bexsero® vaccine?

College Health Services will provide vaccinations after the winter break. Please check our website later in December for the most current information. <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/health>. You may also receive this from your provider at home.

### When does the second dose need to be administered?

The second dose of Bexsero® should be administered no sooner than one month after the first dose, it is acceptable to receive the second dose at home during winter break or upon return to campus in the spring semester. College Health Services will be offering either walk-in clinics or appointments early in the spring semester. The important thing to remember is that the two MenB vaccines are not interchangeable: if your first dose was Bexsero® your second dose must also be Bexsero. Please check our website frequently for updated information regarding dates and times at: <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/health>.

### What if I received the Trumenba vaccine, will I be able to continue the series when I'm back at school?

Yes, will be able to order doses of Trumenba available for those students who are vaccinated with that vaccine. Please call 413-538-2121 and schedule an appointment for Trumenba.

### What is the cost of receiving the first and second dose of the Bexsero® meningococcal vaccine on campus?

The cost to receive the first or second Bexsero® or Trumenba meningococcal vaccine will be billed to the student's health insurance.

#### Insurance Tips:

- Check with your insurance provider regarding their coverage of the vaccine.
- When speaking with your insurance representative, it is important to mention that the **UMass campus has been designated an "outbreak" status by federal and state public health officials.**
- The college sponsored health insurance, will cover the cost of the vaccine at 100% with no co-pay.
- Be sure to check your pharmacy benefit as the vaccine may be covered through a written prescription, which College Health Services can provide.