About this Toolkit
This toolkit is provided by the National Meningitis Association (NMA), an organization formed by families who have been affected by meningococcal disease. Our advocates include parents who lost college-age children to the disease and those who survived it but still live with long-term effects. This toolkit contains materials to help student groups, including fraternities and sororities, raise awareness of meningococcal disease and its prevention. It also includes materials that students can use to advocate for changes in campus vaccination policies.

What’s Included...
Click the icons to access templates and resources.

- List of Ideas for Raising Meningitis Awareness on Campus: Start here for ideas on how to raise awareness at your school
- Meningitis Stories (Video): Stories of students and families affected by meningitis
- Fact Sheet: Basic disease and prevention information
- Educational Fliers: Two versions in different formats: a. PDFs to print and use as-is b. Word documents that you can tailor with “Pledge to Prevent at...”
- Petition Guide and Templates: Ask students to sign a commitment or create a petition to ask your school’s leaders to take action against meningitis
- Template Letter to Administrators: Customize and send this letter to ask administrators to take action by educating students and reviewing current meningitis vaccine policies
- Template Op-Ed: Customize this op-ed and submit to your campus newspaper
- Sample Social Media Posts and Tiles: For sharing information on your social media channels
- Display Banner: For use at informational tables or events

HELP NMA FIGHT Meningitis On Campus
- Distribute fliers
- Spread the word on social media
- Write an op-ed for your campus newspaper
- Start a petition
- Speak up
- Ask school leaders to take action

Visit the National Meningitis Association’s website at nmaus.org to learn more.
Meningitis Facts

Meningococcal disease can strike anyone, but adolescents and young adults are more likely to get it.

10 to 15 percent of those who get the disease die.

About one in five survivors live with permanent disabilities.

Meningitis can be hard to recognize because early signs and symptoms can be like flu or other common illnesses.

Vaccination is the only way to prevent meningococcal disease.

About Meningitis Vaccination

Two kinds of vaccines can help prevent meningitis among college students. They protect against different serogroups (or types) of meningitis.

Even if your college requires meningococcal vaccination for entry or on-campus housing, this requirement is unlikely to include the newer MenB vaccines. NMA urges all teens and young adults to get vaccinated with both vaccines in order to reduce their risk of meningitis as much as possible.

Two kinds of vaccines together offer the best protection against 5 major serogroups (or types) of meningococcal disease:

MenACWY vaccine:
- one dose at age 11-12 years
- with a booster at age 16 years.

MenB vaccine:
- two doses preferably at age 16-18 (or through 23 years)

Meningococcal serogroup B is responsible for meningitis outbreaks that occurred in recent years on college campuses.

While vaccination provides the best chance of protection, it cannot prevent every case. It’s also important for students, faculty and on-campus healthcare professionals to learn about the signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease.

Words from NMA advocates:

“My daughter Cherice was an outstanding college student and a healthy young woman who had dreams of becoming a doctor. She lost her life to meningococcal disease within 24 hours. Cherice left behind a legacy of leadership and volunteerism. With that in mind I am working to help educate others. I urge all students to learn about meningococcal disease and get vaccinated even if it’s not required by your college or state.”

Kolton Kersten, Two-Time All-American Wrestling Champion, survived meningococcal disease (serogroup B) as a college junior

Claudette Lewis, mother of Cherice, who died at age 19