

**Did you know:** In the past three years, students on more than  
34 U.S. college campuses contracted Meningitis

**Calvin College** is committed to the elimination of vaccine preventable diseases.

Outbreaks of Meningitis B on college campuses in recent years demonstrate the importance of protection against Meningitis B.

In coordination with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), we are urging students to understand the seriousness of the disease and strongly recommending vaccination to prevent Meningitis disease from occurring.

**What is Meningitis?**

Meningitis is a serious disease that can cause blood infection and swelling of the brain and spinal cord. To ensure protection against 5 different types of meningococcal bacteria, you need **2 different vaccines**: 1 with strains A, C, W, Y **and** 1 with strain B. Meningitis is spread through close contact – making it especially dangerous for college students.

**What are the symptoms?**

Symptoms such as fever, headache and neck stiffness can progress rapidly and can become serious and possibly fatal. 10% to 15% of people infected with meningococcal disease will die, sometimes within 24 hours. 11% to 19% of survivors can experience long-term effects such as brain damage, hearing loss, loss of limbs, and seizures.

**How can I protect myself?**

Get vaccinated with both Meningitis vaccines to protect yourself from this deadly disease. Contact your provider or call Health Services at 616.526.6187 to schedule an appointment to receive the vaccines.

**Where can I find additional information?**

[Meningococcal Questions and Answers Fact Sheet](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Meningitis Information](#)

[Emily's Story: Vaccine-Preventable Disease Poster, MDHHS](#)