



MEMORANDUM

TO: Illinois Immunization Providers

FROM: Illinois Department of Public Health

DATE: November 18, 2016

SUBJECT: Meningitis B vaccination for returning Univ. Wisconsin-Madison students

Recently, three University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) students were hospitalized with meningococcal disease. All three were infected with *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup B. In response to the outbreak, UW-Madison partnered with Wisconsin public health officials to offer meningitis B vaccination to all UW-Madison undergraduate students. Approximately 20,000 students elected to receive a dose of the meningococcal B vaccine, Bexsero® between October 20 and November 2. This vaccine is administered as a two-dose vaccine series. The second dose is administered 1-2 months after the first dose, but can be administered as soon as 28 days following the first dose. The earliest that students may receive the second dose will be between November 21 and December 1.

Because the timing of the second dose corresponds with when many students will be home during the Thanksgiving holiday and/or winter break, IDPH is notifying Illinois immunization providers of the potential influx of patients requiring the second dose of Bexsero®. We know that 1,766 Illinois residents received the first dose of vaccine as part of UW-Madison's vaccine campaign.

There are two FDA-licensed serogroup B meningococcal vaccines (MenB vaccines) available, Bexsero® (GSK) and Trumenba® (Pfizer). For those who participated in the school's vaccine campaign, the school clinic administered Bexsero®. Therefore, Bexsero® must be administered for the second dose. **Please note that the two MenB vaccines are not interchangeable; the same vaccine product must be used to complete the series.** There is no need to restart the series because of longer intervals between the first and second doses. Please see the CDC website for additional information: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/mening.html>

All vaccinated students received a red and black wallet sized document with the date and type of vaccine received, with a reminder of the need for a second dose. Additionally, communication to students/parents regarding the second dose began the week of November 14. Students have been encouraged to receive the second dose from their primary care provider, clinic, or pharmacy, as insurance allows. Uninsured

and international students will be able to receive the vaccine at the University's Health Services.

For those students who received their initial dose later, it is important to note that winter break is from December 24-January 16 for UW-Madison students. Students/parents have been encouraged to contact their providers ahead of time if the second dose timing falls within that period.

Providers should consider using this opportunity to update other age-appropriate vaccines.