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Date: March 6, 2017

To: **Health Care Providers**

From: Stephanie Schauer, Ph.D., Program Manager
Immunization Section *Stephanie Schauer*

RE: UW-Madison Students Need Second Dose of Meningitis B Vaccine

Background

University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) experienced an outbreak of Meningitis B at the end of the 2016 fall semester. Students received the first dose of vaccine at mass clinics held in late October and early November. This vaccine was supplied by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; however, they are unable to fund additional doses to complete the series. Although some protection is achieved after the first shot, studies have shown this response soon wanes and it is of utmost importance that students complete the series to receive maximum protection.

Students were encouraged to obtain the second dose while home for winter break. Per the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR), only 28% of students who received the first dose of Meningococcal B vaccine have completed the series.

Status of Series Completion

UW-Madison will be sending out messages to students and parents with a reminder to obtain the second dose of Meningitis B vaccine while home for spring break. We are encouraging providers to be prepared and have the vaccine available. **Please be aware that this is not being recommended as a routine vaccination, but as a response to an outbreak situation and the series should be completed for these individuals.**

Vaccine Information

There are two FDA-licensed serogroup B meningococcal vaccines (MenB vaccines) available, Bexsero® (GSK) and Trumenba® (Pfizer). For those who participated in UW-Madison's vaccine campaign, the UW clinic administered Bexsero® for the majority of the students. Therefore, Bexsero® must be administered for the second dose.

A second dose of Trumenba® was administered to students who had previously received a dose and they will require a third dose to complete their series. Per ACIP recommendations, if the second dose of Trumenba® is given at an interval of <6 months, a third dose should be given at least six months after the first dose with a minimum interval of four weeks.

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. To ensure the correct vaccine is used, students can check their University Health Services MyUHS account and providers can check the WIR.

Best Practices

To comply with best practices, it is extremely important for **your patients** who received a dose of vaccine through University Health Services to complete the series.

Please order vaccine so that you are prepared to **complete the series** for your patients, providing them with the maximum protection of Meningitis B.

Please see the CDC website for additional information: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/vacc-specific/mening.html>

Questions

UW-Madison

Questions can be directed to health@wisc.edu or call University Health Services at 608-265-5600.

State Immunization Program

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Schauer, Program Manager, Immunization Program, at 608-264-9884 or via email at: Stephanie.Schauer@Wisconsin.gov.

cc: Stephanie Smiley, Director of Bureau of Communicable Diseases
Karen McKeown, State Health Officer, Administrator
Chuck Warzecha, Deputy Administrator