



## UPDATE: RUTGERS UNIVERSITY MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE INFORMATION June 2, 2016

- Two students at Rutgers University–New Brunswick were diagnosed with meningitis caused by *Neisseria meningitidis*, serogroup B. Special testing performed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that the bacteria from the two students are genetically indistinguishable (a match).
  - The first student with meningococcal disease was hospitalized on March 18, 2016. The second was hospitalized on April 29. Close contacts of both students were identified and notified to receive prophylactic (preventive) antibiotics. Both students have recovered.
- Although no common link has been identified between the two students, the bacteria causing the infections match. This suggests that the strain is present among undergraduate students in the Rutgers University–New Brunswick campus and that there is an outbreak.
- The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the CDC cannot predict whether there will be additional cases of meningococcal disease associated with Rutgers University–New Brunswick. The strain differs from the strain that was associated with the 2013 – 2014 outbreak of meningococcal disease at Princeton University.
- Vaccination is the best protection against meningococcal disease. However, the vaccine routinely given protects against four serogroups – A, C, W, and Y. The vaccine does not provide protection against serogroup B.
- Two serogroup B meningococcal disease (MenB) vaccines are currently licensed for use in the United States: Trumenba® (Pfizer) and Bexsero® (GlaxoSmithKline). **Based upon the molecular profile and additional testing of the specific outbreak strain at Rutgers University–New Brunswick, the best protection is expected with the full three-dose series of Trumenba®.**
- While one or two doses of Trumenba® and Bexsero® will provide some short-term protection against the specific outbreak strain at Rutgers University–New Brunswick, the best protection is expected to require completion of the full three-dose series of Trumenba® with the second dose given 1–2 months after the first and the third dose 6 months after the first.
- The NJDOH and Rutgers University strongly recommend, with support from the CDC, that the following populations at Rutgers University–New Brunswick receive the three-dose Trumenba® vaccine series:
  - All incoming, returning, and transfer undergraduate students,
  - All graduate students who live in undergraduate dormitories, and
  - All graduate students, faculty, and staff who have medical conditions that puts them at increased risk for meningococcal disease. These conditions include functional and anatomic asplenia (including sickle cell disease), persistent complement component deficiencies (C3, C5-C9, properdin, factor H, factor D), and taking Soliris® for treatment of atypical hemolytic uremic syndrome (aHUS) or paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH). Additionally, all microbiologists routinely exposed to *Neisseria meningitidis* should be vaccinated.
- Individuals should remain vigilant (have increased awareness) for signs and symptoms of meningococcal disease. There is no recommendation to cancel activities or scheduled events on campus.