



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

for

Students, Faculty & Staff

2024-2025

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❖ Consumer Information Disclosure

The JCC catalog is available to current and prospective students and their parents and provides important information regarding these and other subjects. The college catalog is available upon request from the admissions office or can be accessed at www.sunyjcc.edu.

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contact for information

Jessica Kubiak, vice president of academic affairs
Don Pool, coordinator of accessibility services
Barry Swanson, coordinator of safety/security and Title IX
Jessica Kubiak, vice president of academic affairs
Kathleen Dennison, interim vice president of finance and operations
Karen Fuller, executive director of administrative services
Jessica Kubiak, vice president of academic affairs
Tracy Kelly, registrar
Karen Fuller, executive director of administrative services
Kayla Griewisch, Institutional Research Manager
George Sisson, director of athletics & recreation
Tracy Kelly, registrar
Karen Fuller, executive director of administrative services
Karen Fuller, executive director of administrative services
Jessica Kubiak, vice president of academic affairs
Karen Fuller, executive director of administrative services

[^] Additional information also published in the annual Important Information document available at www.sunyjcc.edu.

* Additional information also published in each semester's master schedule, available at www.sunyjcc.edu and the counseling centers and extension center offices.

^{^^} Additional information also published in the *Financial Aid Resource Guide*, available at www.sunyjcc.edu and the financial aid and extension center offices.

** Additional information regarding enrollment data and graduation rates of student athletes, athletic program participation and rates, and financial support, is also available from the athletic director's office.

Jamestown Community College does not discriminate on the basis of color, sex, sexual orientation, race, creed, religion, national origin or citizenship, age, marital status, military status, disability, family status, domestic violence victim status, arrest or conviction record, or predisposing genetic characteristics. This policy applies to access to all activities and programs under the college sponsorship as well as to application and selection for admission, employment, and all other personnel procedures within the college.

The college reserves the right, whenever it deems advisable, to change its schedule of tuition and fees; to withdraw, cancel, reschedule, or modify any course, program of study, degree, requirement, or policy.

This material can be made available in alternative media upon request for those with disabilities. Accommodations for those with disabilities can be arranged upon request.

❖ National Voter Registration Information

In compliance with the 1998 Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, Title IV-Student assistance Program Participation agreement, Section 668.14(d):

In accordance with the provisions of the 1998 amendments of the Higher Education Act, JCC participates in the distribution of mail voter registration forms to students enrolled in certificate or degree programs.

General Election Day for all states is **November 5, 2024**, and most states require eligible voters to register prior to that date. Eligible students who are not registered may complete mail voter registration forms and mail them according to their state filing deadlines to participate in local, state, and national elections:

New York voter registration deadline: October 26, 2024

Pennsylvania voter registration deadline: October 21, 2024

Individuals can obtain voter registration forms in the libraries, campus life offices, and disability support services offices on JCC's Jamestown and Cattaraugus County campuses, the JCC North County Center main office, and the JCC Warren Center reception desk, or by calling 1.800.FOR.VOTE to request a form. In-person registration can be done at your local county board of elections. Additional information regarding voter registration requirements can be obtained at the following websites:

Federal Election Commission - www.fec.gov

New York State Board of Elections - www.elections.ny.gov

Pennsylvania Department of State - Bureau of Commissions, Elections, and Legislation - www.dos.pa.gov

❖ **Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention**

prepared by Jamestown Community College in compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989

All students and employees of JCC should be aware that JCC takes seriously its responsibility to prevent the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol. We urge you to read carefully the information in this document which details the college policy on the use of drugs and alcohol, the civil penalties which may be imposed, the health risks incurred by users, and counseling services available to assist employees and students. We hope this educational information can help eliminate the problems of drug and alcohol abuse from our educational community.

Policy and Procedures Regarding the Use of Drugs and Alcohol

in compliance with the Drug Free Workplace Act and the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, Policy No. 190-104, 9/1/90, Rev. No. 1

JCC prohibits the unlawful manufacture, distribution, possession, and/or use of illicit drugs and alcohol by employees and students on any college owned or controlled property or as part of its activities. This includes reckless or intentional action which threatens the mental or physical health of another for the purpose of initiation into or affiliation with any organization.

Employees violating this policy shall be subject to disciplinary actions as defined in their respective labor contracts. Employees not covered by a labor contract shall receive a three-day suspension without pay for a first offense and termination of employment for a second offense. Employees who commit a second offense and/or are convicted of criminal drug offenses may avoid termination by agreeing to a rehabilitation program approved by JCC. A subsequent offense following rehabilitation will result in termination.

Any student organization which authorizes such conduct as noted above will be immediately ejected from campus and further action may result in rescission of permission for that organization to operate on campus property.

Students violating this policy shall be subject to the judicial procedures and sanctions, up to and including expulsion, which are outlined in the student constitution. Copies of the constitution are available in the campus life office, the office of the vice president of student development, the vice president's office on the Cattaraugus County Campus, and the director's office at the North County Center. These judicial procedures shall be implemented in a fair and consistent manner, with consideration given to the circumstances and severity of the offense, and the disciplinary history of the student.

In compliance with federal law, any faculty member, staff member, or student employee convicted of any criminal drug statute violation which has occurred in or on the workplace premises, is required to notify JCC within five (5) calendar days following such conviction. JCC is obligated to notify the appropriate federal contracting agency, if applicable, within ten (10) days of receipt of notice of an employee conviction.

JCC shall make good faith efforts to establish and maintain a drug free environment and shall provide an awareness program for the college community informing employees and students of the dangers of drug and alcohol use and the availability of rehabilitation programs.

A New York state permit to sell alcohol must accompany sale of any alcoholic beverages on campus. Any non-affiliated group or individual requesting the sale or distribution of alcohol on campus will be required to carry the necessary permits, liability insurance coverage, and to name JCC as additional insured.

Any individual or group interested in serving alcohol on college property must complete an application stating type of event, type of alcohol expected to be served (i.e. beer, wine, and/or liquor), and an agreement to assume all responsibility for verifying the age of persons consuming alcohol. This application will be forwarded to the vice president of administration for approval. Consumption of alcohol without permission from the vice president of administration is forbidden. Such permission will not be granted for events in which there will be a preponderance of attendees under age 21. Permission will require that the person(s) serving alcohol will be responsible for checking proof of age and shall have the right to refuse serving alcohol to any individual who appears to be intoxicated. Bartenders may be required for any function serving alcohol at the discretion of the vice president of administration. Non-alcoholic beverages shall be provided at all events at which alcohol is served.

The Effects of Alcohol

Alcohol consumption causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair the judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely, increasing the likelihood that the driver will be involved in an accident. Low to moderate doses of alcohol may also increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including spouse and child abuse. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause marked impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to learn and remember information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. If combined with other depressants of the central nervous system, much lower doses of alcohol will produce the effects just described.

Repeated use of alcohol can lead to dependence. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Alcohol withdrawal can be life-threatening. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol, particularly when combined with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and the liver.

Mothers who drink alcohol during pregnancy may give birth to infants with fetal alcohol syndrome. These infants have irreversible physical abnormalities and mental retardation. Also, research indicates that children of alcoholic parents are at greater risk than other youngsters of becoming alcoholics.

Federal Penalties & Sanctions - Illegal Possession, Controlled Substance

21 U.S.C. 844 (a)

- 1st conviction: Up to 1 year imprisonment and fined at least \$1,000 but not more than \$100,000 or both.
- After 1 prior drug conviction: At least 15 days in prison, not to exceed 2 years and fined at least \$2,500 but not more than \$250,000 or both.

- After 2 or more prior drug convictions: At least 90 days in prison, not to exceed 3 years and fined at least \$5,000 but not more than \$250,000 or both.

Special sentencing provisions for possession of crack cocaine: Mandatory at least 5 years in prison, not to exceed 20 years and fined up to \$250,000 or both if:

- (a) 1st conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 5 grams.
- (b) 2nd crack conviction and the amount of crack exceeds 3 grams.
- (c) 3rd or subsequent crack conviction and the amount of crack possessed exceeds 1 gram.

21 U.S.C. (a) (2) and 881 (a) (7)

- Forfeiture of personal and real property used to possess or to facilitate possession of a controlled substance if that offense is punishable by more than 1 year imprisonment. (See special sentencing provisions re: crack.)

21 U.S.C. 881 (a) (4)

- Forfeiture of vehicles, boats, aircraft, or any other conveyance used to transport or conceal a controlled substance.

21 U.S.C. 844a

- Civil fine of up to \$10,000 (pending adoption of final agreement.)

21 U.S.C. 853a

- Denial of federal benefits, such as student loans, grants, contracts, and professional and commercial licenses, up to 1 year for first offense, up to 5 years for second and subsequent offenses.

18 U.S.C. 922 (g)

- Ineligible to receive or purchase a firearm.

Miscellaneous

Revocation of certain federal licenses and benefits, e.g. pilot licenses, public housing tenancy, etc., are vested within the authorities of individual federal agencies. *Note: These are only federal penalties and sanctions. Additional state penalties and sanctions may apply.*

New York State Penal Law

Articles 220 and 221 of the Penal Law are directly aimed at unlawful traffic in mind-affecting drugs. They are compatible with the Public Health Law and the provisions of the latter are often cross-referenced in the Penal Law sections that deal with the different drugs.

Articles 220 and 221 set criminal penalties for possession or sale of drugs considered harmful or subject to abuse. The seriousness of the offense and penalty imposed upon conviction depend upon the individual drug and amount held or sold. The table of penalties in this publication was derived from those statutes.

Marijuana has been placed in Article 221 and separately dealt with in the Penal Law, as a result of the Marijuana Reform Act of 1977. That statute made the penalties upon conviction of use of small amounts of marijuana less severe than formerly.

Specific sections of interest in Article 220 follow:

Section 220.44 - makes a sale of a controlled substance in or near school grounds, to a person less than 19 years of age, a Class B felony.

Section 220.45 - makes criminal possession of a hypodermic instrument a Class A misdemeanor.

Section 220.46 - makes criminal injection of another person with a narcotic drug, with consent of that person, a Class E felony.

Section 220.50 - bans possession or sale of drug paraphernalia; deals with things that dilute drugs, like dextrose or mannite; and gelatin capsules, plastic envelopes, etc., considered commercial preparation materials (Class E felony).

Section 220.60 - makes criminal possession of certain "precursors" of controlled substances used in their preparation or manufacture, but not the drugs themselves, a Class E felony (for example, ergot or dissimilate).

It is important to be aware that under the Penal Law, a gift of drugs, including marijuana, is treated as a sale.

New York State Penal Law defines a misdemeanor as a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than 15 days but not more than one year. A felony is a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.

New York Law: Illegal Sale or Possession of Alcohol

1. **Unlawfully Dealing with a Child:** It is unlawful to give or sell alcohol (or cause it to be given or sold) to a person under the age of 21. This is a Class B misdemeanor. The penalty could be up to three months imprisonment and a \$500 fine.
2. **DWI:** Driving While Intoxicated (by drugs or alcohol) is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year imprisonment and a fine of up to \$500.
3. **DWAI:** Driving While Ability Impaired by Alcohol is a violation punishable by up to 15 days imprisonment and a fine of up to \$350.
4. **Liability of One Serving a Person under Age 21:** Anyone who furnishes or assists an intoxicated person to procure alcoholic beverages is liable for any damages caused by that person while under the influence.
5. **Dram Shop Liability:** Any person who sells alcoholic beverages or unlawfully assists an intoxicated person to procure alcoholic beverages is liable for any damages caused by that person while under the influence.
6. **Fraudulent Documents:** It is in violation of state law for a person under the age of 21 years to present false evidence of age to procure alcoholic beverages. Possessing such false evidence may also be criminal possession of a forged instrument within the meaning of the penal law.

The penalty for using fraudulent means to obtain alcoholic beverages may include probation up to a year and a fine of up to \$100.

For more information about laws regarding alcohol and drugs, visit www.sunyjcc.edu.

Where to Turn for Help with Problems of Alcohol or Drug Abuse On Campus:

The counseling centers and health centers at both the Jamestown and Cattaraugus County campuses stand ready to assist students and employees with alcohol or drug-related problems.

The services which follow are available to individuals in the greater Jamestown and Olean areas. JCC has no official relationship with any of these organizations and, therefore, cannot endorse or bear any responsibility for the services which they provide.

In the Olean area:

Alcoholics Anonymous

201 N. Union St., Olean, NY 14760.....716.372.4800

Allegany Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

76 Park Ave., Wellsville, NY 14895585.593.6738

Cattaraugus County Addiction and Recovery Services

201 S. Union St., Olean, NY 14760.....716.373.4303

Cattaraugus County Dept. of Community Services

1 Leo Moss Dr., Suite 4308, Olean, NY 14760716.373.8040

Cattaraugus County Dept. of Community Services Crisis Hotline.....1.800.339.5209

In the Jamestown area:

Prevention Works

Drug Prevention Education/Intervention & Referral Services www.preventionworks.us

509 N. Main St., Jamestown, NY 14701.....716.664.3608

186 Lake Shore Dr. W., Dunkirk, NY 14048716.366.4623

Chautauqua County Dept. of Mental Hygiene

200 E. Third St., 5th floor, Jamestown, NY 14701716.661.8330

60-62 Franklin Ave., Dunkirk, NY 14048.....716.363.3550

Chautauqua County 24/7 Crisis Hotline1.800.724.0461

Mental Health Association716.661.9044 or www.mhachautauqua.org

Family Service of the Chautauqua Region

332 East Fourth St., Jamestown, NY 14701716.488.1971 or 1.888.358.3899

UPMC Dunkirk Health Center

338 Central Ave. Suite 240, Dunkirk NY 14048.....716.363.0018

UPMC Chautauqua Outpatient Chemical Dependency Program

Jones Memorial Health Center, 51 Glasgow Ave., Jamestown, NY 14701.....716.664.8641

UPMC Chautauqua Mental Health Programs

Jones Memorial Health Center, 51 Glasgow Ave., Jamestown, NY 14701.....716.664.8641

UPMC Chautauqua Inpatient Chemical Dependency Program

207 Foote Ave., Jamestown, NY 14701716.664.8620

Chautauqua Alcoholics Anonymous

511 E. 2nd St., Jamestown, NY 14701716.484.1544

NYS HOPEline (hotline for chemical dependency)..... 1.877.8.HOPENY (1.877.846.7369)

❖ Human Rights/Affirmative Action Complaint

A human rights/affirmative action complaint is a claim by an employee, prospective employee, student, prospective student, or a group of same, based upon a claimed violation of the non-discrimination/affirmative action policy of JCC, or a claimed violation of state or federal human rights laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act of New York State. The non-discrimination/affirmative action policy states that JCC does not discriminate and will make all decisions regarding admission and the entire educational process of its students, and recruitment, hiring, promotion, and other terms and conditions of employment without discrimination on the basis of sex, gender (including sexual harassment, gender harassment, and harassment due to pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related conditions), gender identity, gender expression, gender non-conformity, sexual orientation, marital or domestic partner status, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, requesting an accommodation, veteran or military status, family care status, requesting or taking pregnancy, parental or disability leave, age, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law, or regulation. All such discrimination and harassment is unlawful and will not be tolerated by JCC.

The following procedure shall be followed to resolve a human rights/affirmative action complaint. This procedure may be followed in addition to any union complaint.

The complainant shall discuss the complaint informally with JCC's human rights officer, Nicolette Riczker (716.338.1035) in the Hamilton Collegiate Center on the Jamestown Campus. If the claim is not resolved at this stage:

- A. A written complaint, which includes information pertaining to the incident and the outcome desired by the complainant, should be submitted to the human rights officer. A written complaint must be filed within the statute of limitations for the complaint: within one year of the alleged incident for state complaints and within 300 days for federal complaints.
- B. The human rights officer shall conduct a preliminary investigation and discuss the issue with the parties involved, either individually or in a joint meeting.
- C. Within 20 working days after the filing of the written complaint, the human rights officer shall render a decision in writing to the complainant.
- D. If the complainant, or the respondent, is not satisfied with the written decision, and wishes to proceed further, he/she shall, within 10 working days, file a written appeal of the decision with the human rights officer.
- E. Within 15 working days, the President of JCC will appoint a panel consisting of impartial representatives chosen from the faculty, administration, staff, or student body.
- F. A hearing shall take place within 30 working days of the date the written appeal was filed at a time and place agreeable to both parties.
- G. The hearing panel shall render a decision in writing to both parties within 10 working days after the end of the hearing. Included in the panel's decision of validity shall be a statement of recommended disciplinary action, if warranted. Such disciplinary action is dependent upon the nature of the violation and may vary from the minimum of a written letter describing the violation placed in the violator's file to a maximum of dismissal from the institution.
- H. If the complainant, or the respondent, is not satisfied with the written decision and wishes to proceed further, he/she may take the complaint to the civil rights agency of his/her choice, or seek other legal remedies.

❖ **Release of Student Information**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act is a federal law which states that a written institutional policy must be established covering the privacy rights of students. The law provides that an institution will maintain the confidentiality of student educational records.

JCC accords all the rights under the law to students who are 18 years or older. No one outside the institution shall have access to, nor will the institution disclose any information from, a student's educational record without the consent of the student. Within JCC only those members, individually and collectively, acting in the student's educational interest, are allowed access to student educational records. These members include administrative personnel and faculty, within the limits of their right to know.

Currently enrolled students and those students who have been enrolled within the past two years should understand that all full-time faculty and selected others have access to their academic records. Former students should understand that releasing their social security numbers provides others with access to their records.

Additionally, the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act permits the release of directory type information without the written consent of the student, provided the student has been given the opportunity to withhold such disclosure. JCC reserves the right to disclose, at its discretion, the following information: names, permanent addresses, e-mail address, enrollment status, dates of attendance, class, previous institution(s) attended, major field of study, awards, honors, degree(s) conferred (including dates), past and present participation in college activities, athlete height/weight, and photos. Students who wish JCC to withhold such information must notify the registrar, in writing, prior to the start of each semester.

Review of Student Records

The law provides students with the right to inspect and review information contained in their educational records; to challenge the contents of their educational records; to have a hearing if the outcome of the challenge is unsatisfactory; and to submit explanatory statements for inclusion in their files. The vice president of student development and chief diversity officer has been designated by this college to coordinate the inspection and review procedures for the following student records: admissions, financial, and placement records. The vice president of academic affairs has been designated to coordinate inspection of and review procedures for student academic records. The vice president of the Cattaraugus County Campus has been designated to coordinate inspection of and review procedures for all records at the Cattaraugus County Campus. Students wishing to review their educational records must make a written request to the appropriate vice president listing the item or items of interest.

Students who believe their educational records contain information that is inaccurate or misleading can discuss the problem informally with the appropriate vice president. If the vice president's decision is in agreement with the student's request, the appropriate records will be amended and the student will be notified in writing. If there is no agreement, the student will be notified within a reasonable period of time that the records will not be amended and the student will be informed of his/her right to a formal hearing. A request for a formal hearing must be made to the vice president.

Within a reasonable period of time after receiving a request, the vice president will inform the student of the date, time, and place of the hearing. The student may present evidence relevant to the issues raised and may be assisted or represented at the hearings by persons of his/her choice. Decisions of the hearing panel will be based solely on the evidence presented at the hearing and will consist of written statements summarizing the evidence and stating the reasons for the decisions and delivered to all parties. Students who believe adjudication of their challenges was unfair may appeal for assistance to the college president.

Educational Records Not Accessible

Students may not inspect and review the following as outlined by law: financial information submitted by their parents; confidential letters and recommendations associated with admissions; records of instructional and administrative personnel which are in sole possession of the maker; records of someone employed by the institution; and records of a person after he/she is no longer in attendance at JCC, i.e. alumni records.

Institutional Policy

Official records are kept by JCC as long as there is a reasonable need for them. After that time they are destroyed. The registrar's record of a student's academic performance is retained permanently. JCC considers the student's name and whether he/she is enrolled at JCC as being public information, essential to its operation. This, therefore, may be disclosed without restriction. A copy of the Educational Rights and Privacy Act is on file in the registrar's office and is available for review by students.

Students who believe their privacy rights have been violated may file a complaint concerning alleged failure of JCC to comply with the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act by contacting: Family Policy Compliance Office, US Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605.

Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999 (GLB)

JCC complies with all privacy and security provisions of GLB. JCC has taken appropriate measures to ensure the security and confidentiality of our customers' financial information. JCC complies with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). By doing so, JCC is in compliance with the privacy requirements of the GLB. Measures have been taken to protect against any anticipated threats to the security or integrity of such information. JCC has put into place an Information Security Program (ISP) that guards against the unauthorized access to or use of such information that could result in substantial harm or significant inconvenience to any customer. The ISP covers administrative, technical, or physical safeguards used to access, collect, distribute, process, protect, store, use, transmit, dispose of, or otherwise handle customer information. For further information on this issue, please contact the director of human resources at 716.338.1035.

❖ Meningococcal Disease

On July 22, 2003, Governor Pataki signed New York State Public Health Law (NYS PHL) §2167 requiring institutions, including colleges and universities, to distribute information about meningococcal disease and vaccination to all students meeting the enrollment criteria, whether they live on or off campus. This law became effective August 15, 2003.

JCC is required to maintain a record of the following for each student:

- A response to receipt of meningococcal disease and vaccine information signed by the student or student's parent or guardian. This must include information on the availability and cost of meningococcal meningitis vaccine (Menomune™); **and either**
- A record of meningococcal meningitis immunization within the past 5 years; **or**
- An acknowledgement of meningococcal disease risks and refusal of meningococcal meningitis immunization signed by the student or student's parent or guardian.

Meningitis is rare. However, when it strikes, its flu-like symptoms make diagnosis difficult. If not treated early, meningitis can lead to swelling of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal column as well as severe and permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss, brain damage, seizures, limb amputation and even death.

Cases of meningitis among teens and young adults 15 to 24 years of age (the age of most college students) have more than doubled since 1991. The disease strikes about 3,000 Americans each year and claims about 300 lives. Between 100 and 125 meningitis cases occur on college campuses and as many as 15 students will die from the disease.

A vaccine is available that protects against four types of the bacteria that cause meningitis in the United States – types A, C, Y and W-135. These types account for nearly two-thirds of meningitis cases among college students.

If you wish to receive the meningococcal meningitis vaccine (Menomune™), it is available through your private health care provider or the county health department. The cost of the vaccine can be as much as \$90 but the cost may be covered by the individual's health insurance policy.

Be sure to complete the Meningococcal Meningitis Response Form which is available at the JCC health center on the campus you are attending. According to New York State Public Health Law, no institution shall permit any student to attend the institution in excess of 30 days without complying with this law. The 30-day period may be extended to 60 days if a student can show a good faith effort to comply.

To learn more about meningitis and the vaccine, contact the JCC health center and/or your physician. You can also find information about the disease at the New York State Health Department website, www.health.ny.gov; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website, www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/; and the American College Health Association (ACHA) website, www.acha.org.

❖ Meningococcal Disease Facts: Information for College Students

Issued by the New York State Department of Health - July 2003

What is meningococcal disease? Meningococcal disease is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream or meninges (a thin lining covering the brain and spinal cord).

Who gets meningococcal disease? Anyone can get meningococcal disease, but it is more common in infants and children. For some college students, such as freshmen living in dormitories, there is an increased risk of meningococcal disease. Between 100 and 125 cases of meningococcal disease occur on college campuses every year in the United States; between 5 and 15 college students die each year as result of infection. Currently, no data are available regarding whether children at overnight camps or residential schools are at the same increased risk for disease. However, these children can be in settings similar to college freshmen living in dormitories. Other persons at increased risk include household contacts of a person known to have had this disease, and people traveling to parts of the world where meningitis is prevalent.

How is the germ meningococcus spread? The meningococcus germ is spread by direct close contact with nose or throat discharges of an infected person. Many people carry this particular germ in their nose and throat without any signs of illness, while others may develop serious symptoms.

What are the symptoms? High fever, headache, vomiting, stiff neck and a rash are symptoms of meningococcal disease. Among people who develop meningococcal disease, 10-15% die, in spite of treatment with antibiotics. Of those who live, permanent brain damage, hearing loss, kidney failure, loss of arms or legs, or chronic nervous system problems can occur.

How soon do the symptoms appear? The symptoms may appear two to 10 days after exposure, but usually within five days.

What is the treatment for meningococcal disease? Antibiotics, such as penicillin G or ceftriaxone, can be used to treat people with meningococcal disease.

Is there a vaccine to prevent meningococcal meningitis? Yes, a safe and effective vaccine is available. The vaccine is 85% to 100% effective in preventing four kinds of bacteria (serogroups A, C, Y, W-135) that cause about 70% of the disease in the United States. The vaccine is safe, with mild and infrequent side effects, such as redness and pain at the injection site lasting up to 2 days. After vaccination, immunity develops within seven to 10 days and remains effective for approximately three to five years. As with any vaccine, vaccination against meningitis may not protect 100% of all susceptible individuals.

How do I get more information about meningococcal disease and vaccination? Contact your family physician or your student health center. Additional information is also available on the websites of the New York State Department of Health, www.health.ny.gov; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov; and the American College Health Association, www.acha.org.