

Title: A Follow-Up Survey of Nebraska Colleges regarding Compliance with Legal Requirements for Meningococcal Immunization Education

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Purpose and Objective

- Conduct a follow-up telephone survey of colleges previously contacted through a survey and toolkit mailing
- Learn about college compliance with Nebraska state law on meningococcal disease and immunization education
- Assist college personnel to identify barriers and solutions to achieve compliance with state law, and to optimize student and family education on meningococcal disease and immunization options

Design/Methods

The Immunization Task Force (ITF) sent a Spring 2017 mailing to twenty-three Nebraska colleges. The mailing reminded college administrators and health personnel of Nebraska law requiring colleges to inform entering students about meningococcal meningitis and its prevention through immunization. The ITF mailing indicated their interpretation that this education would apply to educating on both the ACWY conjugate and the serogroup B vaccines. In 2018, health or housing personnel at 22 of these institutions were again surveyed via a semi-structured telephone survey. This interview addressed questions regarding current practice and likely barriers where full compliance with the law was lacking. Strategies for achieving compliance were explored. Expanded toolkit materials were subsequently provided via email.

Findings

Interviews with 77% (17/22) of the colleges were conducted. Fourteen (82%) of the 17 institutions indicated they were providing education access on Meningococcal A/C/W/Y disease and vaccine, while 8 (47%) included Meningococcal Type B in their information. Of those providing information, only 4 (24%) required confirmation from their matriculating students of having received and reviewed information on both vaccines. Identified barriers and strategies discussed will be presented.

Implications for Practice

Information provided by these colleges to their entering students increased over the course of the two-phase project. While moderate progress has been made, there remains substantial room for improvement in college education about meningococcal A/C/W/Y and B vaccinations to meet CDC recommendations. Continued follow-up is recommended with colleges not yet fully complying with Nebraska law on this issue.