



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

June 15, 2015

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
1600 Clifton Road  
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Chair Temte and ACIP Members,

The University of Oregon urges the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) to adopt a broad, routine recommendation for immunization of adolescents and college age students against the serogroup B meningococcal disease at your June meeting. A number of college campuses have recently experienced outbreaks of meningitis B, including the University of Oregon, University of California, Santa Barbara, and Princeton University. During the 2015 outbreak at the University of Oregon, six students and one parent became ill with meningococcal disease and, tragically, one of our students died. These instances make clear the urgency of a timely decision to ensure the immunization of a broader population to prevent future tragedy.

As you know, an increasing number of students are routinely vaccinated against other strains of meningitis, but not meningitis B. According to the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases, this increasing frequency of vaccination against other strains has now made meningitis B the most common cause of meningococcal disease in adolescents. Fortunately, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) gave its approval of vaccinations to prevent the disease. At its February meeting, ACIP recommended the use of vaccine for at-risk populations in response to outbreaks. ACIP approval for broad, routine immunization would be a step toward preventing another outbreak and ensuring that college students, young people, and others at risk are protected against this fast-moving and often fatal illness.

Meningococcal disease is devastating. As university leaders, we are particularly concerned about meningitis B because one-fifth of all meningococcal infections occur in young adults between the ages of 14 and 24, and college students are especially at risk because residence halls, fraternities and sororities, and apartments are the ideal environments for spreading the disease.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

1226 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1226 T (541) 346-3036 F (541) 346-3017 [www.uoregon.edu](http://www.uoregon.edu)

*An equal-opportunity, affirmative-action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act*



Further, a broad, routine recommendation for immunization of adolescents and college age students against the serogroup B meningococcal disease will ensure that insurers will cover the vaccination. This will assist in assuring that all students who need the vaccine are able to get it.

Simply put, we urge your timely review and approval of a broad, routine recommendation for immunization against meningitis B to keep *all* our students safe and avoid another tragic outbreak.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Coltrane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott Coltrane  
Interim President  
University of Oregon

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin Holmes". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first letters being large and prominent.

Robin Holmes  
Vice President  
Division of Student Life  
University of Oregon