



SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY

Dear Incoming Student,

As you organize your plans to attend SNHU, we need to inform you of several issues that pertain to your medical records and care while attending our institution.

MEDICAL RECORDS: Whether you are planning to commute to school or reside on campus, you are required to submit a medical record. On the reverse side of this letter are the steps for completing this process and a medical record is enclosed. Please note that your medical record is a required document as a full-time student attending Southern New Hampshire University. This record provides us with vital information used when treating a student and is necessary to meet state requirements as a health facility. It is expected that you will submit this information prior to or on your first day of orientation. For licensing reasons, you cannot receive services if you have not submitted the required medical information.

MENINGITIS VACCINE: You should be aware that while the overall incidence rate of meningitis is very low on college campuses, there has been a rise in recent years. The reasons for this increase are not yet fully understood; yet, studies from previous college outbreaks suggest that college students are more susceptible because they live and work in close proximity to each other in residence halls and classrooms. Meningitis is a serious and sometimes fatal disease that affects the brain and spinal cord and can lead to permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss, brain damage and possible death. However, there is a safe effective vaccine that can provide protection against 4 out of 5 strains of bacterial meningitis, which together account for 62% of meningococcal cases on campus. The vaccine has been in use for over a decade and is effective against the most common strains of the bacteria. Protection lasts for 3-5 years.

Vaccination is not required but recommended for admission to Southern New Hampshire University. Furthermore, the American College Health Association (ACHA) recommends that college students consider vaccination to reduce their risk. In the past, vaccination usually has been delayed until an outbreak of meningitis occurs. However, because outbreaks are clustered in time, and because onset of symptoms is extremely rapid, it makes sense for students to consider reducing their risk with a vaccination before an outbreak occurs. This also eliminates the fear of not being vaccinated in time.

I urge you to speak with your health care provider about his/her recommendation in this matter and to make your own decision regarding this safeguard. If you have difficulty obtaining the vaccine from your provider, you may pre-register and pre-pay to have the vaccine administered through our Health Services office at a cost of \$65.00. A registration form is included with this mailing. Please note that your medical records must be complete in order to receive the vaccination.

NEED MORE INFORMATION: Should you have difficulties in completing your medical records prior to orientation, you need replacement forms or you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Health Services staff at 603/645-9616. Questions regarding the institution's health insurance plan or waivers to this plan should be directed to Student Administrative Services at 603/645-9619. For more information about our services, visit the Wellness Center website at www.snhu.edu/studentlife.html.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. We look forward to meeting your medical needs on campus.

Sincerely, ..

Nancy White, LPN
Coordinator of Health Services

Enclosures: Steps to Complete (Over), Patient Bill of Rights, Medical Record, Vaccination registration form, meningitis brochure

New Hampshire College is now Southern New Hampshire University

Wellness Center

2500 North River Road • Manchester, NH 03106-1045 • 603-645-9679 • Fax 603-645-9711

MENINGITIS VACCINE PRE- REGISTRATION FORM

To reserve a dose of Menomune Vaccine please fill in the form below and mail it along with your *completed* medical record. *The vaccination will only be given to resident students and commuters who have submitted completed medical records that include a current physical.*

Please order _____ one dose of Menomune vaccine.
Print name of student

I understand that my signature below permits Health Services to order a dose of Menomune for me and I am enclosing a check for \$65.00 for the cost of the vaccine (made out to Southern New Hampshire University).

Signature of Student

Signature of parent (*if student is under the age of 18*)

Insurance reimbursement forms will be provided at the time of immunization upon request.