MENINGITIS INFORMATION

First year college dormitory residents have been found to have higher risk for contracting Bacterial Meningitis. Colby-Sawyer College and the American College Health Association strongly recommends that students consider meningitis vaccination.

Please discuss the information in this letter with your private healthcare provider.

Two vaccines have been developed to help prevent this disease:

1. **Menomune (A/C/Y/W-135 Quadrivalent polysaccharide vaccine):** This vaccine is designed to protect against serogroups or types of meningitis A,C,Y, and W-135. The vaccine is not foolproof as it does not protect against the B strain, and may only be 85% effective in the strains that it does protect against and is effective for 3-5 years.

2. **Menactra (A/C/Y, and W-135 Polysaccharide Diphtheria Toxoid Conjugate Vaccine):** In January of 2005 the FDA approved this vaccine which is the first quadrivalent conjugate vaccine licensed in the U.S. which protects against the four serogroups (A,C,Y, and W-135) of Neisseria meningitides. This vaccine is not fool proof and may only be 85% effective in the strains that it does protect against and is effective for 8-10 years. Please contact our office for Menactra vaccine availability and cost.

For more information on meningitis, please go to our website at [www.colby-sawyer.edu](http://www.colby-sawyer.edu). The Baird Health & Counseling Center site can be found under Campus Life. We offer links for up to date information on meningitis. If you have any questions or require more information, please feel free to call us at (603) 526-3621.

PERTUSSIS ALERT

Pertussis, (commonly called Whooping Cough) is a highly contagious respiratory tract infection. Although most children are protected against pertussis by vaccination during childhood, immunity wanes over time and leaves young adults unprotected. In 2004, adults 19-64 years of age accounted for about 27% of reported pertussis cases (CDC 2006). It is estimated that the true number of cases among adults 19-64 years of age is higher, about 600,000 annually (CDC 2006).

ADACEL a Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis Tdap Vaccine, was licensed by the FDA on June 10, 2005 as a single dose booster vaccine for persons 11-64 years of age to provide protection against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis. Another Tdap vaccine BOOSTRIX, was licensed by the FDA on May 3, 2005 for persons 10-18 years of age.

The American College Health and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends routine use of a single dose of Tdap for adults 18-64 years of age to replace the next booster dose of tetanus and diphtheria toxoids vaccine (Td).

We are recommending that you speak to your health care provider about receiving the Tdap vaccine. Pertussis is highly contagious and in a residential college the risk of becoming ill with this illness is high.

For more information about pertussis and/or the vaccines available please check out the following websites: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov).

For more information please feel free to contact our office (603) 526-3621.