



**News Release**

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**SLVHD Offering Meningococcal Vaccine for \$5.00**

*500 doses of low-cost vaccine available to public while supply lasts*

(Salt Lake County) – The Salt Lake Valley Health Department (SLVHD) has received 500 doses of Menactra (a vaccine used to prevent infection caused by meningococcal bacteria) and is offering it to the public for \$5.00, while the supply lasts. The Menactra vaccine usually costs about \$100.00 per vaccination at public health clinics, but SLVHD is making this “Special Project” offer because the vaccine will reach its expiration date on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

“While the expiration date is coming soon, the vaccine is still as effective and safe now as when it was first manufactured,” explained Sharon Moon, SLVHD Immunization Coordinator. “But after May 9<sup>th</sup>, we will have to throw out any remaining vaccine.”

Meningococcal disease is a serious bacterial infection that can cause meningitis—severe swelling of the brain and spinal cord, or can lead to sepsis—a dangerous and potentially life-threatening blood infection. It is very dangerous because it often begins with symptoms that can be mistaken for other illnesses such as the flu. However, unlike more common infections, meningococcal disease can get worse very rapidly.

Each year, the SLVHD receives reports of an average of 10 cases of meningococcal disease in Salt Lake County. In most years, one or two of those cases have resulted in death. The CDC estimates that 1 in 5 people who get meningococcal disease will die.

The Menactra vaccine is recommended for individuals 11 to 55 years of age and is available on a first-come, first-served basis at the following SLVHD Health Clinics:

South East Public Health Center  
9340 South 700 East  
Sandy, UT 84070  
255-7114

Ellis R. Shipp Public Health Center  
4535 South 5600 West  
West Valley City, UT 84120  
963-7335

South Main Public Health Center  
3195 South Main Street  
Salt Lake City, UT 84115  
483-5451

Salt Lake City Public Health Center  
610 south 200 East  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
534-4666

“The Special Project procedure for short-dated vaccine allows us to minimize the amount of wasted vaccine that must be thrown out after the expiration date,” Moon said. “It also lets us offer the vaccine to people that may not otherwise be able to afford it.”

For additional information on the availability of Menactra vaccine and vaccination guidelines, call (801) 468-2086.

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