



Urgent Notice Regarding Bacterial Meningitis Vaccine Required by State of Texas Senate Bill 1107

Bacterial Meningitis Vaccine Now Required prior to the Spring 2012 Semester

Requirements

The 82nd Texas Legislature approved [Senate Bill 1107](#), requiring all new students under the age of 30 to submit evidence of immunization against bacterial meningitis.

The bacterial meningitis vaccination requirement applies to all:

- First-time students of the Health Science Center, and
- Returning students who have not attended the Health Science Center for one fall or spring semester.

Deadlines

Proof that immunization against bacterial meningitis was administered within the five-year period immediately preceding — and at least 10 days prior to — the first semester enrolled or re-enrolled at the HSC must be submitted to your School/College upon Admission.

Required Documentation is listed below.

At least one of the following forms of documentation (that includes the month, day, and year the vaccination was administered) **must be faxed, mailed or submitted in person** to your School/College:

- Certification bearing the signature stamp of the physician or his/her designee, or public health personnel that the student has been vaccinated during the five-year period immediately preceding — and at least 10 days prior to — the first day of class;
- An official immunization record generated by a state or local health authority; or
- An official record from another school official, including a record from another state (must be within five years).

The information will be maintained in the Registrar's Office in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations and the Health and Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

Note: *Students who fail to submit the required documents **will not be allowed to register for classes**. The following students are **not required to submit verification of an immunization**:*

- Students who are 30 years old or older;
- Students with a signed affidavit or certificate from a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States, that states the vaccination would be injurious to the health of the student;
- Students who sign an affidavit stating that the student declines the vaccination for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. A [conscientious exemption form](#) from the Texas Department of State and Health Services must be used;
- Students taking only distance learning courses where attendance on any HSC campus is not a requirement.

Additional Information about Meningococcal Meningitis

Meningitis, also called the meninges, is an inflammation of the covering of the brain and spinal cord. More information about the causes, symptoms, types, risks, and seriousness, as well as ways to prevent meningococcal meningitis, is available through the following links (*all links open in a new window*):

- [Bacterial Meningitis Fact Sheet from Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](#)
- [Meningococcal Vaccines Flyer from CDC](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)