

Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination



College students, particularly freshmen living in dorms on campus, are at an increased risk of contracting bacterial meningococcal disease. Bacterial meningitis is a serious infection that can be fatal in as few as 48 hours and may leave survivors with permanent disabilities; therefore it requires early diagnosis and treatment. It is often difficult to diagnose because the symptoms closely resemble those of the flu. And although no vaccine offers 100% protection, the meningococcal vaccine offers the most complete protection against bacterial meningitis. Consult with your physician about the importance of this immunization to prevent the disease.

College Vaccine Requirements

Effective October 1, 2013, a recent change to Texas State law (SB 62) mandates that all entering students under the age of 22 provide a certificate signed by a health care provider or an official immunization record verifying that a student has been vaccinated against bacterial meningitis, or has received a booster during the five years preceding admission to the University. The vaccine must be received prior to the 10th day before the first day of the semester

Students can register for classes, but **MAY NOT** move into the residence hall or attend class without providing proof of the Bacterial Meningitis vaccination or an appropriate exemption form to your Magnus Health account which will be verified by the Office of Health Services.

Acceptable evidence of vaccination may include any of the following:

- ◆ A document bearing **the signature or stamp** of the physician or his/her designee or public health personnel (must show facility name and phone number, along with verification of administration)
 - ◆ An official immunization record from a state or local health authority
 - ◆ An official immunization record received from school officials, including a record from another state
- (All must include the month, day and year the vaccination was administered)**

SUBMIT YOUR VERIFICATION TO YOUR MAGNUS HEALTH ACCOUNT

(Once you received your permit to enter, you should have received an email with your log in information.)

Exemptions must be submitted according to the requirements below:

MEDICAL-

An affidavit or certificate signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice in the United States, stating that in the physician's opinion, the vaccination would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student.

CONSCIENCE/RELIGIOUS-

Texas law allows for an exemption from immunizations for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. Because there are two different processes to obtain an exemption form depending on the student's age and living situation, please make sure you follow these guidelines:

Students Under Age 18 Or Living In On-Campus Housing

For new students living in **on-campus housing**, which includes student housing facilities located on the campus of an institution of higher education, such as dormitories, sorority and fraternity houses, privately owned residence halls, and apartments, the student must use the official Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) form. The DSHS form may be ordered electronically. It is then mailed from DSHS to the student. The DSHS form must be completed, notarized, and submitted to Wayland's Office of Health Services. It is the student's responsibility to complete the DSHS form and have it notarized. Information about requesting the DSHS affidavit form is available at the DSHS Immunizations School & Child-care Requirements page. A written request must be submitted for the affidavit via one of the following:

- ◆ Secure on-line FTP site at: <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/default.aspx>
- ◆ Fax the written request to (512) 776-7544
- ◆ Mail request to: Immunization Branch, Mail Code 1946 PO Box 149347 Austin, TX 78714

Students Age 18 Or Older And Not Living In On-Campus Housing

For new students at institutions of higher education **NOT** living or residing in on-campus housing, who wish to file an affidavit stating that the student declines the vaccination for bacterial meningitis for reasons of conscience, the student may use the official Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's form, accessible from the website at the link below. The student must print the form, have it notarized, and submit the original to Wayland's Office of Health Services. This form can be found at the [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Bacterial Meningitis page](#).

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL (806)291-3765 OR (806)291-3763