

State of Texas SB 1107

Beginning on January 1, 2012, all entering students are required to show evidence of an initial bacterial meningitis vaccine or a booster dose during the five-year period preceding and at least 10 days prior to the first day of the first semester in which the student initially enrolls at an institution. An entering student includes a first-time student of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education and includes a transfer student, or a student who previously attended an institution of higher education before January 1, 2012, and who is enrolling in the same or another institution of higher education following a break in enrollment of at least one fall or spring semester.

Bacterial Meningitis is a serious, potentially deadly disease that can progress extremely fast - so take utmost caution. It is an inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. The bacteria that cause meningitis can also infect the blood. This disease strikes about 3,000 Americans each year, including 100-125 on college campuses, leading to 5-15 deaths among college students every year. There is a treatment, but those who survive may develop severe health problems or disabilities.

Evidence must be submitted in one of the following formats:

- A document bearing the signature or stamp of the physician or his/her designee, or public health personnel (must include the month, day, and year the vaccination was administered). **OR**
- An official immunization record generated from a state or local health authority (must include the month, day, and year the vaccination was administered). **OR**
- An official record received from school officials, including a record from another state (must include the month, day, and year the vaccination was administered).

Exceptions to Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination Requirement

- A student is not required to submit evidence of receiving the vaccination against bacterial meningitis if the student meets any of the following criteria: The student is 22 years of age or older by the first day of the start of the semester (effective 1/1/2014); or
- the student is enrolled only in online or other distance education courses; or

A student is not required to submit evidence of receiving the vaccination against bacterial meningitis if the student submits to the institution:

- An affidavit or certificate signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine 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; or
- An affidavit signed by the student 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 Health Services (DSHS) must be used. (This may take up to 30 days.)
<https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/affidavit.shtm>

Vaccinations may be available at a discounted price at the following locations:

**Dallas County HHS
Immunization Clinic
2377 N. Stemmons FWY, Rm 159
Dallas, TX 75207
214-819-2163**

**Arlington Public Health Center
536 W. Randol Mill Road
Arlington, TX 76011
817-548-3990**