

Bacterial Meningitis Information and Requirements

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What is Bacterial Meningitis?

Bacterial Meningitis is a serious, potentially deadly disease that can progress quickly. It is an inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. The bacteria that cause meningitis can also infect the blood.

Why do I need a Bacterial Meningitis Vaccine?

The State passed Senate Bill 1107, effective January 1, 2012, which requires all students under the age of 22 entering an institution of higher education and are enrolled in a continuing education course or program that is less than 360 contact hours, or continuing education corporate training to show proof of having the vaccine. The vaccine must be administered at least 10 days prior to the start of the course or semester. The vaccine must be no more than five years old from the date the student enrolls. The entire text of SB 1107 may be found here:

<http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/82R/billtext/html/SB01107F.htm>

Are there exceptions to the law?

The following exemptions apply:

1. If you are over the age of 21 before the semester start date.
2. If you are enrolled in a continuing education course or program that is less than 360 contact hours, or continuing education corporate training.
3. If you are taking online courses only.
4. The Texas Department of Health allows exemptions from the immunization based on:
 - a. Medical Issues
 - b. Reasons of conscience, including a religious belief
 - c. Active duty with the armed forces of the United States

How do I file for one of the exemptions mentioned above?

- If you are (or will be) over the age of 21 prior to the start of the term, you will automatically get the exemption.
- If you plan on taking only online courses, you will need to contact the Admissions Office and ask for the exemption. *Note: If the Admissions Office grants this exemption and then you enroll in face-to-face classes, you will be dropped from the face-to-face classes.*
- To file an exemption under one of the provisions from the Texas Department of Health:
 1. Students not living in on-campus housing use the form found here:
<http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/2554.PDF?CFID=27957543&CFTOKEN=65832908>
Note: This form must be notarized.
 2. Fill out the form but do not sign.
 3. Have the form notarized by a notary public (fees may apply).
 4. Copy the notarized form for your records.

**** Note: It takes the Texas Department of Health 2 weeks to mail you the exception form. Please plan accordingly.**

What is acceptable evidence of having the meningitis vaccine?

- A physician signed or stamped form. You may use the Evidence of Vaccination against Bacterial Meningitis form (Attachment A)
- Official state or local immunization record
- Official record from school officials

What happens if I don't get the vaccine?

If you are required to have it, and do not show proof, you will not be eligible to enroll in classes.

Where can I get the vaccine?

You can get the vaccine from your doctor, the Texas Department of Health or through some pharmacies like CVS or Walgreens. For residents in the Bryan/College Station area, see Attachment B.

Is there a deadline to get the vaccine?

Yes, the vaccine must have been given no later than 10 days prior to the start of the course.

How do I submit evidence of vaccination or an affidavit to decline vaccination?

All documents should be mailed, faxed, emailed, or hand-delivered to:

- **Mail:** TEEX Law Enforcement & Security Training
P.O. Box 40006
College Station, TX 77842-4006
- **Fax:** (979) 862-2788
- **Email:** law@teex.tamu.edu