

House Bill 4189 Requirement for Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination

In compliance with HB 4189, a first-time student attending an institution of higher education, including a transfer student, residing in on-campus housing, must show evidence of being immunized against bacterial meningitis.

The student must have received the vaccination at least 10 days prior to the date of residency and evidence thereof provided to the Director of Business Services or his/her designee prior to approval for on-campus housing. The student will not be approved for on-campus housing without providing acceptable evidence of the vaccination. The vaccination information provided will be maintained in accordance with Family Education Rights and Privacy Act Regulations.

Acceptable evidence of vaccination provides the following:

- (A) the month, day and year the vaccination was administered
- (B) the signature or stamp of the physician or his/her designee, or public health personnel
- (C) an official immunization record generated from a state or local health authority; **or**
- (D) an official record received from school officials, including a record from another state.

EXCEPTIONS:

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

(1) an affidavit or a certificate signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States, which states that in the physician's opinion, the vaccination required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student; or

(2) an affidavit signed by the student stating that the student declines the vaccination for reasons of conscience, including religious belief. A conscientious exemption form from the Texas Department of State Health Services must be used. <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/affidavit.shtm>

The exceptions noted above do not apply during a disaster or public health emergency, terrorist attack, hostile military or paramilitary action, or extraordinary law enforcement emergency declared by an appropriate official or authority from the Texas Department of State Health Services and is in effect for the location of the institution the student attends.