

Health and Safety

POLICY AHV Responsible Executive: Provost Responsible Office: Office of Provost Issued: 7.1.21 Revised: n/a

1. PURPOSE

This Policy, in compliance with Tex. Educ. Code \$ <u>51.9191</u> and <u>51.9192</u> and 19 Tex. Admin. Code \$ <u>21.610</u> <u>et seq.</u>, requires entering students to receive the meningitis vaccine, unless subject to an exemption, and provide evidence of receipt of the vaccine to a designated health official at the University.

2. MENINGITIS VACCINE REQUIRED

Each entering student who is admitted to the University must show evidence of receipt of an initial bacterial meningitis vaccination dose or booster during the five-year period preceding and at least ten (10) days prior to the first day of the first semester in which a student initially enrolls at the University, or following a break in enrollment of at least one fall or spring semester at the University.

2.1. The evidence of the student having received the vaccination from an appropriate health practitioner must be received by the designated health official. The information will be maintained in accordance

A student is not required to submit evidence of receiving the vaccination against bacterial meningitis or evidence of receiving a booster dose if:

- 3.1. The student is 22 years of age or older by the first day of the start of the semester; or
- 3.2. The student is enrolled only in online or other distance education courses; or
- 3.3. The student is enrolled in a continuing education course or program that is less than 360 contact hours, or continuing education corporate training; or
- 3.4. The student is enrolled in a dual credit course which is taught at a public or private K-12 facility not located on a higher education institution campus; or
- 3.5. The student is incarcerated in a Texas prison.

3.6. A student requesting an exemption under Section 3 of this Policy may be required to submit evidence establishing the student's entitlement to the automatic exemption.

4. ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS

A student, or a parent or guardian of a student, is not required to submit evidence of receiving the vaccination against bacterial meningitis if the student, or a parent or guardian of a student, submits to the designated health official:

- 4.1. An affidavit or a certificate signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States, in which it is stated that, in the physician's opinion, the vaccination required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student; or
- 4.2. An affidavit signed by the student stating that the student declines the vaccination for bacterial meningitis for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. A conscientious exemption form from the Texas Department of State Health Services must be used for students attending a public university, health-related institution, or private or independent institution of higher education. The 4.2.

documentation or are subject to an exemption under Section 4 of this Policy

Unenroll Students, when required

- 1. The Office of the Registrar will identify those students who the designated health official has not cleared.
- 2. The Office of the Registrar will determine whether the student is subject to an automatic exemption under Section 3 of this Policy.
- 3. If it appears that the student is not subject to an automatic exemption under Section 3 of this Policy and has not been cleared by the designated health official, the Office of the Registrar will unenroll the student.
- 4. The Office of the Registrar will promptly notify the Office of Student Affairs and the student when the student has been unenrolled. The notice to the student should include information on how to request reinstatement or recoattifcoattifent or reo the

| Medical & | Designated Health | | |
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| Conscience | Official | (972) 721-5322 | |
| Exemptions | Official | | |