

December, 2009

During the last Texas legislative session (the 81st Texas Legislature), Texas House Bill 4189 (HB 4189) was passed and signed into law by Governor Rick Perry. HB 4189 requires that any incoming new student who lives on-campus must either receive a vaccination against bacterial meningitis or meet criteria for declining such a vaccination before they can live on-campus. For entire text of the Texas House Bill 4189, refer to <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/81R/billtext/html/HB04189F.htm>.

Beginning on January 1, 2010, incoming students who live in on-campus housing will be required to provide either evidence of vaccination against bacterial meningitis or a signed (notarized) affidavit declining the vaccination prior to living on-campus. Students will not be allowed to check into their housing assignment until one of the following documents is received by the Department of Residence Life, along with the SHSU Meningitis Vaccination Verification Form.

REQUIRED: SHSU Meningitis Vaccination Verification Form

AND

ONE OF THE FOLLOWING IS REQUIRED

1. Evidence the student has received the vaccination (student must have received vaccination at least 10 days prior to living on-campus) 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.)

OR

2. Evidence the student is declining the vaccination must be submitted in one of the following two formats:

- An affidavit (notarized) 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**
- An affidavit (notarized) 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 ("Affidavit Request for Exemption from Immunizations for Reasons of Conscience") <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/affidavit.shtm> from the Texas Department of State Health Services must be used.

If you have not already received the meningococcal (meningitis) vaccine, contact your primary healthcare provider or your local public health clinic to determine availability. Most large pediatrician offices offer the vaccine and the cost will depend on your insurance coverage. Most local health departments will offer the vaccine at a low cost. However, these offices often limit vaccination times, so be sure to call ahead.

Please send the verification document to:

Department of Residence Life

Mail: Box 2416, Huntsville TX 77341-2416

Fax: (936) 294-1920

Email: reslife@shsu.edu

Hand Delivery: 1003 17th Street

SHSU Meningitis Vaccination Verification Form

Student Name: _____

Student Permanent Address: _____

Student Phone Contact Information: _____

Student SHSU ID # _____ Semester/Yr Attending SHSU: _____

I have received the meningitis vaccine and am attaching required documentation.

I am exempt from the meningitis vaccine due to possible health risks and am providing documentation from my physician.

I am exempt from the meningitis vaccine due to religious belief or reasons of conscience and am providing the appropriate exemption form.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

If Student is under the age of 18, the following is required:

Parent/Legal Guardian Name (please print): _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____

Please send this form and verification document to:

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