

Meningitis Vaccination and Documentation

I. Policy

In accordance with Texas Education Code 51.9192, *all entering students are required to show evidence of 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*, unless the student qualifies for an approved exemption from the vaccine.

Sam Houston State University (SHSU) has delegated the meningitis enforcement and data collection process to the Student Health Center (SHC).

II. Procedure

The following procedures are specific to SHSU for the enforcement of Texas law

A. Vaccines Accepted

There are two types of meningitis vaccines currently available. Students are advised to consult with their medical provider about their optimum vaccination protocol for their individual needs.

1. SHSU requires the quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine that protects against four strains of bacteria that cause the disease (A, C, Y, and W-135). Brand names: Menactra or Menveo.
2. SHSU will not accept a meningococcal group B vaccine, which protects against one strain if the student has ONLY received this vaccine. Brand names: Trumenba or Bexsero

B. Compliance

SHSU requires:

Evidence of a quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine within the last five years prior to taking classes on an SHSU campus or moving into residence halls.

C. Submission

1. All vaccine documentation or an accepted waiver document are required to be submitted by the incoming student through their SHC patient portal. Instructions for this process can be found at shsu.edu/meningitis.
2. Submission by the student and approval by the SHC will remove the vaccination hold from student accounts to secure housing or registration for on campus classes. Allow 48 hours once documents have been submitted for the hold to remove.

D. Accepted Documents

1. Documents must include the month/day/year the vaccine was administered, the signature or official stamp of the person or entity that administered the vaccine, the student's full name and date of birth.
2. Any of the following documents will be accepted as evidence of vaccination:
 - a. A document from a physician or public health personnel who administered the vaccine to the student.
 - b. An official immunization record from the state in which the vaccine was received.
 - c. The SHC *Evidence of Vaccination* form completed by the physician or public health personnel who administered the vaccine.
3. All records must be in English to be approved.
4. In no circumstances will a receipt for purchase of the medication be accepted as evidence of vaccination.

E. Exemptions

All students attending SHSU under the age of 22 are required to show the evidence of the vaccine unless they meet one of the following exemptions:

1. An approved waiver of conscience filed through the State of Texas Department of State Health Services;

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2. An approved medical exemption in the form of an affidavit or signed statement by a physician 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
3. An online only student who will not access the SHSU campuses.

F. Holds

A registration and housing hold is placed on the student's SAM account at the time of acceptance to the University. This hold will not be removed until the vaccine requirements are submitted by the student through the SHC patient portal and approved by the SHC.

III. Attachments

[*SHC Evidence of Vaccination Form*](#)

IV. References

1. [Texas Higher Education Coordination Board](#)
2. [Texas Department of State Health Services](#)
3. [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)
4. [Education Code Chapter 51, Section 51.9192](#)