



Sue-Ann Biggs, RN  
University Nurse

Dear Student:

Texas legislation mandates that effective January 2012 every new student and new transfer under the age of 30 to any Texas university, regardless of living on campus or off campus, will be required to have a **Meningitis Vaccination** at least 10 days prior to the first class day. (A returning student following a break in enrollment of at least one fall or spring semester is also considered a new student.) Exceptions to this law would be:

1. The student is enrolled only in online or other distance education courses; or
2. 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. 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
4. The student is incarcerated in a Texas prison.

A student is not required to submit evidence of receiving the **Meningitis Vaccine** if the student submits to HSU:

1. An affidavit or certificate signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the U.S., stating that in the physician's opinion, the vaccine 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 vaccine for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. A conscientious exemption form from the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) must be used.

The latter exemption does not apply during a disaster or public health emergency, terrorist attack, hostile military or paramilitary action, or extraordinary law enforcement emergency declared by a Texas Department of State Health Services authority and is in effect for the location of the university the student attends. (Please note: New students 30 years or older wishing to live on campus would be required to receive the **Meningitis Vaccine**.) Texas law states that acceptable evidence of your **Meningitis Vaccination** must include:

1. Student's **name** and **date of birth**.
2. **Month, day, year** the vaccine was administered.
3. **Signature or stamp** of the physician or his/her designee, or public health personnel; **OR**
4. An official immunization record generated from a **state or local health authority (as from the Texas Public Health Department)**; **OR**
5. An **official record** received from **school officials**, including a record from another state.
6. The student has to have received the **vaccine or a booster** during the **5 year period preceding** the first day of class.

It is important you consult your physician regarding the need for the **Meningitis Vaccine** to prevent bacterial meningitis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "S. Biggs RN".

Sue Ann Biggs, R.N.