

New State Law for Meningitis Vaccination

Senate Bill 1107

Beginning with the Spring 2012 semester, a new state law requires all students entering institutions of higher education show evidence of receiving a bacterial meningitis vaccination or booster dose during the five year period prior to enrollment and not less than 10 days before the first day of the semester. Entering students include transfer students from other colleges and returning or continuing students who have had a break in enrollment of at least one fall or spring semester.

The law allows for *exceptions* for:

- **Students 30 years of age or older**
- **Students who are enrolled only in online or other distance learning courses**
- **Students (18 y/o or older) who submit an affidavit or a certificate signed by the student stating that the student declines the vaccination for bacterial meningitis for reasons of conscience, including religious belief. A conscientious exemption form (“Affidavit Request for Exemption from Immunizations for Reasons of Conscience”) from the Texas Department of State Health Services must be used. Allow several weeks to submit and have form approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services.**

To get the vaccine (MCV4), check with your family doctor or local public health department.