

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 **group A** vaccine that protects against four strains of bacteria that cause the disease (A, C, Y, and W-135). Brand names: *Menactra, Menveo, and MenQuadfi*.
2. SHSU accepts the pentavalent meningococcal vaccine that protects against five strains of bacteria that cause the disease (A, B, C, W, and Y) in lieu of the above quadrivalent vaccine. Brand name: *Penbraya*.
3. The meningococcal group B vaccine, which protects against one strain is a compliment vaccine and does not meet the State of Texas requirement if the student has ONLY received this vaccine. Brand names: *Trumenba* or *Bexsero*

B. Compliance

SHSU requires:

Evidence of a current Meningitis A vaccine *within the last five years* prior to accessing the SHSU campuses.

C. Submission Options

1. **Portal Upload:** All vaccine documentation or an accepted waiver document are required to be submitted by the incoming student through their Student Health Center (SHC) patient portal. Instructions for this process can be found at shsu.edu/meningitis.
2. **Auto Clearance:** If students are State of Texas residents and are registered in the state registry ImmTrac2 system, their vaccine records will auto populate into their student health center chart and if the meningitis vaccine is current, their record will be automatically verified as compliant with no further action by the student.

D. Registration and Housing Holds

1. Submission of records by the student and approval by the SHC or auto clearance through the ImmTrac2 system will remove the vaccination hold from student accounts to secure housing or registration for classes.
2. The clearance review process is managed by SHC staff during regular business operation hours Monday to Friday. Records submitted after 5 pm or on the weekends will be reviewed the next open business day.

E. Accepted Documents

1. Documents must include:
 - a. month/day/year and vaccine brand name of the vaccine was administered,
 - b. the signature or official stamp of the person or entity that administered the vaccine,
 - c. the student's full name and date of birth.

F. 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:

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1. An approved waiver of conscience filed through the State of Texas Department of State Health Services;
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; and needs to state if it is a lifetime exemption or temporary exemption with date of exemption expiration; or
3. A distance learning waiver for a student who will not access the SHSU campuses.

III. Attachments

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](#)