Texas law requires most incoming college students to be vaccinated against bacterial meningitis or provide an exemption request. Senate Bill 1107 amends current Texas law requiring proof of Bacterial Meningitis vaccination at least 10 days prior to attending classes.

Students should plan ahead and provide applicable documentation to avoid enrollment delays and student account holds.

**Lone Star College strongly encourages you to obtain a meningitis vaccination before attending classes even if you are exempt from the requirement.**

**Please keep in mind the following considerations.**
- The bacterial meningitis vaccination must be administered by a Health Practitioner authorized by law to administer an immunization.
- Vaccinations older than 5 years will require a booster.
- All students must receive the bacterial meningitis vaccination at least 10 days prior to the start of the semester.

**About Bacterial Meningitis**

Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis is usually caused by a viral or bacterial infection. The severity of illness and treatment differs depending on whether it is caused by a virus or bacterium. Viral meningitis is generally less severe and clears up without specific treatment. Bacterial meningitis can be severe and may result in brain damage, hearing loss, or learning disabilities. It is also important to know what type of bacterial meningitis, because antibiotics can prevent some types from spreading and infecting other people.

Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) was the leading cause of bacterial meningitis before the 1990s. Since the Hib vaccine is now given to all children as part of their routine immunizations, the number of Hib infections and related meningitis cases has declined. Streptococcus pneumoniae and Neisseria meningitidis are now the leading causes of bacterial meningitis.

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**Student Deadlines**

**Early Registration:** Early registrations will be cancelled and students will be dropped from fall semester classes if payment is not received by **August 11th at 7 p.m.** Meningitis proof of vaccination, or exception, **must be submitted by August 11th** for all early registration students.

**Regular Registration:** Students registering for fall semester classes after August 11, 2012 must **submit payment and proof of vaccination, or exception, when they register for classes.**

All students must be in compliance with required meningitis proof of vaccination before they will be allowed to attend classes. Lone Star College will work with all students to help them come into compliance; students that miss deadlines for regular fall semester class start may be eligible for Second Start Classes based on vaccination and document submission deadlines.

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**Open Doors**

LoneStar.edu/Meningitis
There are three ways for students to comply with the bacterial meningitis requirements:

1. Vaccination
   Submit proof of vaccination via Magnus SMR.

2. Medical Exemption
   Submit proof of medical exemption via Magnus SMR.

3. Conscientious Exemption
   Submit original, notarized affidavit to campus Admissions/Advising Office.

You are REQUIRED to provide proof of vaccination or exemption if any of the following apply:

- You are enrolling in college for the first time as a credit student
- You are returning to college after a break in enrollment of one fall or spring semester or more
- You are transferring to LSC for the fall or spring semester from another college or university following a break in enrollment of one fall or spring semester or more
- You are an Early College or other exceptional admissions student enrolled in classes on a Lone Star College campus
- You are a non-credit Career & Technical Education student also enrolled in credit classes

You are EXEMPT if any of the following apply:

- You are over 30 years of age
- You have been continuously enrolled (fall and spring) at LSCS or another institution of higher education since fall 2011. An unofficial transcript is required to verify continuous enrollment.
- You are enrolled in a non-credit CTE course or program less than 360 contact hours, and are not taking any credit classes.
- You are enrolled in non-credit corporate training.
- You are enrolled in 100% online or distance education courses
- You are a dual-credit student taking courses taught at a public or private K-12 facility not located on a higher education institution campus
- You obtain a medical exemption
- You obtain a conscientious objection exemption

Medical Exemption
An affidavit or a certificate signed by a physician. The physician must be registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States. The affidavit must state the physician’s opinion that the vaccination would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student. The form may be uploaded, faxed or mailed (must use Magnus SMR cover sheet to fax/mail and follow instructions on the cover sheet.)

Medical Exemption Steps:
1. From your Magnus SMR account inside myLoneStar, download and print the affidavit form.
2. Take the affidavit form to your physician and have the physician complete and sign the form.
3. Make a copy of the form for your records.
4. Upload, fax or mail the exemption affidavit using instructions posted in your Magnus SMR account. Use the student cover sheet as indicated; each cover sheet contains individual student account codes.

Conscientious Objection
An affidavit signed by the student stating that the student declines the bacterial meningitis vaccination for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. Original, notarized form must be submitted to campus admissions/advising office.

Conscientious Objection Steps:
If you’re over the age of 18:
1. Go to LoneStar.edu/Meningitis for a copy of the form.
2. Fill out the form but DO NOT sign it.
3. Have the form notarized by a notary public (fees may apply). See the campus Admissions/Advising office for assistance.
4. Copy the notarized form for your records. See the campus Admissions/Advising Office for assistance.
5. Submit the original notarized affidavit to the campus Admissions/Advising Office.

If you are under the age of 18:
You must request the official state form from the Texas Department of State Health Services. Go to LoneStar.edu/Meningitis to access a link to the online form. The Texas DSHS will mail the form to your home address, please allow 2-3 weeks for processing. The original, notarized form must be submitted to the campus Admissions/Advising office.