

***Bacterial Meningitis Immunization
Required by Action of the Legislature of the State of Texas
SB 62 / October 1, 2013***

Dear McMurry Students:

SB 62 requires students under the age of 22 years old to provide a certificate signed by a health practitioner or an official immunization record proving the student has received a bacterial meningitis vaccine dose or booster during the previous five-year period before the student can enroll in a Texas college or university effective October 1, 2013. The bacterial meningitis vaccination required by law to attend college must include protection from A, C, W and Y meningococcal strains. The law does not require bacterial Meningitis B vaccination.

Registering for Classes:

- There is a 10 day waiting period between the time of receiving the vaccination and attending classes.
- Students may register for classes if at least 10 days remain before the first day of class for the semester in which they are seeking to enroll.
- If fewer than 10 days remain before the first day of class the Registrar's office personnel can help with determining the date on which you may register.
- Students will **not be allowed to register for classes if fewer than 10 days remain** between the time of the vaccination and the last day to add a course for the semester of the desired enrollment, based on the published academic calendar.

Send Vaccination Record to McMurry Health Clinic:

You must provide evidence of the vaccination, receiving a booster, or the exemption prior to registering for classes. All documents should be mailed, faxed, emailed, or hand delivered to the McMurry University Health Services Office. If you have any questions, please contact McMurry Health Services at the information listed below.

mail to: Ms. Ronda Hoelscher
Health Services
McMurry University
McM Station Box 716
Abilene, TX 79697

phone: 325.793.4857
fax: 325.793.4879
email: hoelscher.ronda@mcm.edu
deliver to: President Residence Hall (SE Corner)

Acceptable evidence includes the following:

- The signature or stamp of a physician or his/her designee, or public health personnel, on a form which shows the month, day, and year the vaccination dose or booster was administered.
- An official immunization record generated from a state or local health authority.
- An official record received from school officials, including a record from another state.

Available Exemptions:

A student may be exempt from the requirement if he or she:

- is 22 years of age or older on or before the first day of the term of enrollment. *Note: The change in age requirement for the vaccination was made in a revision in 83rd Legislative session S.B.62 effective October 2013.*
- presents a physician's certificate indicating the vaccination would injure the health of the student
- signs an affidavit declining the vaccination due to reasons of conscience including religious belief. This provision does not apply during "a public health emergency, terrorist attack, hostile military or paramilitary action or extraordinary law enforcement emergency." A request for an exemption for reasons of religious belief must be made in writing through the U.S. Postal Service, commercial carrier, fax, or through the secure online site:

Department of State Health Services
Immunization Branch (MC 1946)
P.O. Box 149347
Austin TX 78714-9347
Fax: 512.776.7544

Secure online request form for exemption affidavit: <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco>

Locations:

You may get the vaccination at your personal physician's office, local health department and many pharmacies.