

Meningitis Frequently Asked Questions

Updated May 2, 2013

- 1. What are the new meningococcal meningitis vaccination requirements?** An entering student who has been admitted to an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education, must show evidence of receipt of an initial bacterial meningitis vaccination dose or booster 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 at an institution, or following a break in enrollment of at least one fall or spring semester at the same or another institution.
- 2. Who is required to get the vaccine?** A first time student at a college or university, including a student who transfers to that college or university from another institution of higher education. A returning student of an institution of higher education who is enrolling in the same or another institution following a break in enrollment of at least one fall or spring semester.
- 3. Why do I need a bacterial meningitis vaccination?** This Texas law passed with the most recent legislative session to provide protection from meningococcal meningitis to all entering students at an institution of higher education. <http://healthcenter.unt.edu/immunization-requirements>
- 4. What other immunizations are required to attend UNT?** Even though the bacterial meningitis vaccine is the only requirement for attendance, the UNT Student Health and Wellness Center recommends that all students have current up to date immunizations for Polio, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Measles, Mumps, and Rubella. Consideration should also be given to vaccination against Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B and Varicella.
- 5. What is an acceptable evidence of vaccination?** An acceptable form of vaccination or receiving a booster dose includes;
 - 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 or booster dose was given.
 - An official immunization record from a state or local health authority
 - An official record received from school officials, including a record from another state.
- 6. What is the deadline for submitting proof of vaccination?** A student must show proof of having received vaccination or a booster by 5 PM on the last day of regular registration.
- 7. What happens if I do not comply with this new requirement?** Your classes will be cancelled if you are not in compliance unless you have requested and been granted an extension by UNT for justifiable reasons. [Click here for a Request for Extension Form.](#)
- 8. What if I register or arrive late to UNT, will I still be able to attend classes for that first semester?** The law allows each institution, under justifiable circumstances, to grant extensions to individual students to extend the compliance date to no more than 10 days after the first day of the semester in which the student initially enrolls. [Click here for a Request for Extension Form.](#)
- 9. If I am an International student, does my documentation have to be in English?** It is preferable that the documents be in English, however some stamps and seals will be in the native language which is acceptable if the date and type of vaccination and name is discernible. Documents where the student's name, date of vaccination or type of vaccine is not legible will not be accepted.
- 10. If I am a continuing student from spring 2013, am I required to provide proof of vaccination?** If you are a continuing student within the same institution you will not need to provide proof of immunization. However if you transfer to another institution of higher education within the state of Texas you will be required to show evidence of current meningitis vaccination. If you have not been enrolled in spring 2013 and subsequently return to UNT, you would be required to show proof of vaccination prior to the start of classes for that term.
- 11. If I attended classes at UNT during the spring of 2013 but did not attend classes in the fall of 2013, will I be required to provide proof of vaccination when I return to UNT?** Yes, since you had a break in enrollment for the fall semester you will be required to submit proof of vaccination.

12. **What if I have been continuously enrolled at UNT prior to January 1, 2012, will I ever have to show proof of immunization?** As long as you remain continuously enrolled at UNT with the exception of the summer sessions, you will not be required to submit proof of immunization.
13. **If I am enrolling in exclusively online classes do I have to submit proof of vaccination?** If you are enrolling in online classes only and they do not meet at any time on UNT campus, then you do not have to submit proof of vaccination against bacterial meningitis. You do need to complete the [Meningitis Online Class Petition](#) and submit it to the UNT Registrar's Office.
14. **If I had previously been enrolled in exclusively online classes and now will be taking classes that meet on UNT campus, do I have to submit proof of vaccination?** Yes you have to submit proof of vaccination before you can attend classes unless you had previously submitted proof and the exclusively online class was during the Summer sessions.
15. **Are the new meningitis requirements for undergraduate students only?** This requirement includes all new students, transfer students or returning students who are returning after a break in enrollment for a fall or spring semester whether they are an undergraduate or a graduate student.
16. **How do I submit my immunization records?** You can download the [Bacterial Meningitis Immunization form](#). Complete the top portion of the form and then select either Option 1 or Option 2. If Option 1 is selected, please attach the appropriate documentation to the form. If Option 2 is selected, have your health care provider complete that section by affixing their signature and/or stamp along with the month, day and year the vaccination or booster dose was given. Send the completed form and any attachments to UNT electronically, through the US Postal Service, or delivered by hand to one of the following offices:

NEW UNDERGRAD & TRANSFER STUDENTS	INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	NEW-FORMER GRAD STUDENTS	RETURNING UNDERGRADUATES
Office of Admissions 1155 Union Circle #311277 Denton, TX 76203 unt.immrec@unt.edu Fax: 940-369-8267	International Admissions Sycamore Hall Room 286 1155 Union Circle #311067 Denton, TX 76203 international@unt.edu Fax: 940-565-4822 Phone: 940-565-2442	Toulouse Graduate School Eagle Student Services Center Room 354 1155 Union Circle #305459 Denton, TX 76203 graduateschool@unt.edu Fax: 940-565-2141 Phone: 940-565-2383	Registrar's Office 1st floor Eagle Student Services Center 1155 Union Circle #311400 Denton, TX 76203 registrar@unt.edu Fax: 940-565-4463 Phone: 940-565-2361

17. **Are there any exceptions to this requirement?** A student is not required to submit evidence of receiving vaccination or a booster dose against bacterial meningitis if:
- The student is 30 years of age or older by the first day of classes of the semester that they are an entering.
 - The student is enrolled only in online or other distance education courses. Students who plan to enroll for exclusively online courses only should complete the [Meningitis Online Class Petition](#) and submit it to the UNT Registrar's Office.
- A student, or a parent or guardian of a student, is not required to submit evidence of receiving the vaccination if the student, or a parent or guardian of a student, submits to the institution:
- An affidavit or a certificate signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States, in which it is stated that, in the physician's opinion, the vaccination required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student; or
 - An affidavit signed by the student stating that the student declines the vaccination for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. A [conscientious exemption form from the Texas Department of State Health Services](#) must be used.
18. **What if I have been immunized and cannot get proof of immunization; can I just get another vaccine dose?** Getting another vaccine dose can be done, however there must be at least eight weeks between the two doses.

19. **When looking at my immunization records, how do I know if I have received the meningitis vaccine?**
Currently there are three meningococcal meningitis vaccines licensed in the United States; they are:
- **Menomune** (MPSV4)-not currently recommended for use by the CDC, but still acceptable.
 - **Menactra** (MCV4)-first available in 2005.
 - **Menveo** (MCV4) - first made available in 2010.
20. **If I have already had the meningitis vaccine, do I need a booster?** If the vaccine was given more than five years prior to the first day of classes in which you initially enroll, then you are required to have a booster.
21. **Why do you have to get a booster after five years?** Research has shown that immunity to bacterial meningitis wanes between 3 to 5 years after receiving a dose of vaccine.