

BACTERIAL MENINGITIS POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy outlines the requirements for bacterial meningitis vaccination for students attending Schreiner University in compliance with state health regulations.

SCOPE

This policy is a university policy that applies to students.

POLICY

Entering college students required to receive meningococcal vaccination and students not required to receive meningococcal vaccine are defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Rules, Chapter 21, Subchapter T, §21.612, §21.613, and §21.614.

All newly entering students age 22 years and younger need to have a meningitis vaccination within the past five years and at least 10 days prior to participating in any University activity including moving on to campus. This also applies to students who previously attended an institution of higher education and who are enrolling in the same or another institution following a break in enrollment of at least one fall or spring semester.

PROCEDURE

- Students must submit official documentation of vaccination to the Office of Student Affairs.
- Shot records showing meningeal vaccination can be emailed to health@schreiner.edu. or submitted in person.

EXEMPTIONS

Schreiner University, in accordance with SB62, provides written notice of a student's right to claim exemption from the immunization requirement under certain circumstances and the importance of consulting with a physician about the need for immunization. Students may request exemption from the vaccination requirement under the following conditions:

- Medical Exemption, health care provider determines that it is not safe
 - Students submitting an affidavit or a certificate signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed and in good standing to practice medicine in the

United States, stating that, in the physician's opinion, the vaccination required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student.

- Religious/Conscientious Exemption, there is a religious or personal belief that goes against getting immunized.
 - Students who submit an affidavit/form signed by the student (or the parent/legal guardian/managing conservator, if applicable) stating the student declines the vaccination for bacterial meningitis for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief
- Other Exemptions
 - Students 22 years of age or older by the first day of the start of the semester.
 - Students enrolled only in online or other distance education courses.
 - Students enrolled in a dual credit course which is taught at a public or private.
 - K-12 facility not located on a higher education institution campus.

REQUESTING EXEMPTION

A person claiming exclusion for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief, from a required immunization may only obtain the affidavit form by submitting a request (via online form, mail, fax or hand-delivery) to the department of Texas State Health Services. The request must include the following information:

- Full name of child or student
- Child's or student's date of birth (month/day/year)
- Complete mailing address, including telephone number
- Number of requested affidavit forms (not to exceed five).

Affidavit form requests will be processed and mailed within one week from the receipt of the request. You will be notified if additional information is needed to process the affidavit.

Email or telephone requests cannot be processed. Requests for affidavit forms must be submitted to the department through one of the following methods:

Request an Affidavit Online

Affidavits may be requested via the Immunization Section [Affidavit Request website](#).

Request an Affidavit By Mail

A written request for an affidavit may be sent through the United States Postal Service (or other commercial carrier) to:

Texas Department of State Health Services
Immunization Section, Mail Code 1946
P.O. Box 149347
Austin, Texas 78714-9347

Request an Affidavit By Fax

Fax written requests for affidavits to: 512-776-7544.

Request an Affidavit In Person

Requests for an affidavit may be made in person at:

Texas Department of State Health Services
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

*NOTE: No requests will be filled at the time of hand-delivery.
All affidavit forms will be mailed to you via U.S. Postal Service.*

Administrative Oversight: Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Responsible for Implementation: Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

Information concerning Bacterial Meningitis can be found at Texas Health and Human Services, [Requirements | Texas DSHS](#),
www.dshs.texas.gov/immunizations/school/requirements