

Lamar University
Department of Housing
Policy on Requirement for Vaccination against Bacterial Meningitis for
Students residing in On-Campus Housing

I. STATEMENT OF POLICY

Lamar University (University) complies with Texas Education Code § 51.9192, “the Jamie Schanbaum Act”, which requires first time students of an Texas institutions of higher education, including transfer students, residing in on-campus housing to show evidence of immunization for bacterial meningitis.

II. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to all University students who apply for first time residence in University housing.

III. STATUTORY & REGULATORY REFERENCES

Texas Education Code, Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Section 51.9192, Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination Required for Certain Students; Exceptions.

19 TAC Part 1, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Chapter 21, Student Services. Subchapter T, The Vaccination against Bacterial Meningitis for Students approved to Reside in On-Campus Dormitories or Other On-Campus Housing Facilities at Institutions for Higher Education.

IV. DEFINITIONS

- A. Covered Student: Any student enrolled at the University who has not previously enrolled at a public or private or independent institution of higher education in Texas who resides or plans to reside in University On-Campus Housing. The term also includes dual enrollment students or transfer students from other institutions of higher education, including public or private or independent institution of higher education in Texas who resides or plans to reside in University on-campus housing.
- B. On-Campus Housing: Any housing facility for University students that is located within the campus boundaries controlled by the University. The term specifically includes any residence that is required to comply with applicable laws and University regulations that pertain to University student housing facilities, regardless of whether it also houses individuals who are not enrolled at the University.
- C. Required Vaccination: A vaccination recognized by the US Center for Disease Control as effective for the immunization of an individual against bacterial meningitis.
- D. Reside: Move into and/or occupy as a tenant, renter or resident.

- E. Responsible Party: The Director of Campus Housing or other person designated by the University President to receive documentation required under this policy of Required Vaccination by each Covered Student or that person's designee.

V. General Requirements

- A. No Covered Students will be permitted to Reside in University On-Campus Housing unless the Covered Student has provided written documentation that the Covered Student has received a Required Vaccination which has been approved by the Responsible Party as set forth in this policy at least ten (10) days prior to the first date upon which the Covered Student is permitted to Reside in University On-Campus Housing.
- B. A Covered Student who submits documentation of a Required Vaccination that was administered later than ten days prior to its receipt by the Responsible Party must wait until ten days have passed before the student may be permitted to Reside in occupy On-Campus housing.
- C. Failure to submit documentation of a Required Vaccination does not alleviate the Covered Student's responsibility under any contractual relationship with University relating to On-Campus Housing.
- D. Documentation of the Required Vaccine must be approved by the Responsible Party or the Responsible Party's designee for approval before a Covered Student is permitted to Reside in On-Campus Housing.

IV. Documentation of Required Vaccine; Form:

- A. Acceptable documentation is:
 - 1. a statement provided by physician or other health care provider authorized by law to administer the Required Vaccine;
 - 2. an official immunization record issued by a state or local health authority; or
 - 3. an official record received directly from a Texas school official or a school official in another state.
- B. Form of Documentation. The documentation submitted must:
 - 1. be in English;
 - 2. state the name and other information sufficient to identify the individual who received the Required Vaccination;
 - 3. clearly identify that the Required Vaccine was administered to the individual;
 - 4. state the month, date and year the Required Vaccine was administered; and,

5. if the documentation is not an official immunization record or a school record received as described Subsection A(2) or (3) above, it must also include:

a. the name, address, signature or stamp, state of licensure and license number of the physician or other health care provider who administered the Required Vaccination;

or

b. the name, address, signature or stamp of the public health official who administered the required Vaccination.

V. Exceptions

A Covered Student is exempted from the requirements of this policy if the Covered Student submits one of the following to the Responsible Party:

A. an affidavit or certificate signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine that states that physician is of the opinion that the Required Vaccination would be injurious to the health and well being of the Covered Student; or

B. an affidavit on the form provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services (the Department) signed by the Covered Student stating that the Covered Student declines to have the Required Vaccination based on reasons of conscience, which may include the Covered Student's religious beliefs.

1. However, this exception will not be available, at the discretion of the University, during a disaster or public health emergency, hostile or paramilitary action, or extraordinary law enforcement emergency declared by an appropriate official or authority from the Texas Department of State Health Services affecting the University.

2. The affidavit can be requested on-line from the Department at <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/affidavit.shtm> or by mailing, hand delivering or faxing a request for an affidavit to the Department.

Important: There may be a delay between the date of the request for the affidavit form and receipt of the form from the Department. Students who plan to request an exemption should make the request early enough to allow them to complete and notarize the affidavit prior to submission to the Required Party at the University. For more information, including a printable order form, see http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/docs/faq_exemption.pdf

EFFECTIVE Jan. 1, 2011

Lamar University

Meningitis Vaccine Notice

A new state law that takes effect January 1, 2010 requires that any first-time students who plan to move into University housing show proof that they have been immunized against bacterial meningitis or meet certain criteria for declining such a vaccination before they can live on campus. The law applies to transfer students and any student enrolled in Lamar University living on campus for the first time.

Meningitis is an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord. According to the Centers for Disease Control, it can progress rapidly and cause permanent disabilities, such as hearing loss, brain damage or loss of limbs. Studies suggest that college students have a slightly higher risk of contracting the illness because they live and work in close proximity. It is highly recommended that all Lamar University students be vaccinated against Meningitis.

Please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html> for more information about the disease.

Students who intend on living in university housing and are first time residents, must provide a certificate signed by a health practitioner stating that they have been vaccinated against Meningitis. All paperwork must be turned in prior to room assignments.

Alternately, a student may file an affidavit or a certificate signed by a licensed physician stating that the physician believes that the required vaccination would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student. Or the student may request an affidavit form from the [Texas Department of State Health Services](#) through which the student may state that he or she declines the vaccination for reasons of conscience. More information about the law and required forms is available at ([hyperlink to LU website-Meningitis Policy/forms](#)).

1. Who is required to comply with the Meningitis Vaccination Law?

All students, including transfers, who will be residing for the first time in Lamar University campus housing must comply with TEXAS EDUCATION CODE § 51.9192.

2. I am a first-time student at Lamar University and plan to move into University-owned housing. How do I comply with the Meningitis Vaccination Law and related University policies?

To comply with the law and related University policies, you must provide one of the following documents to University Housing Department.

a. A certificate signed by a health practitioner stating that the student has been vaccinated against bacterial meningitis. Please note, the meningitis vaccination requires 10 days to take full effect. You will not be allowed to move into University housing during this 10-day period after vaccination. Applicants are encouraged to obtain the required vaccination and submit evidence of vaccination to Lamar Housing Department without delay.

OR

b. An affidavit or a certificate signed by a physician licensed to practice medicine that states that physician is of the opinion that the required vaccination would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student.

OR

c. An affidavit on the form provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services signed by the student stating that the student declines the vaccination for bacterial

meningitis for reasons of conscience as outlined at (LU meningitis policy hyperlink).
Please note, the Texas Department of State Health Services may take up to two weeks to mail you the required form, which must be notarized. To request an exemption form, go to: <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/affidavit.shtm>

Students who plan to request an exemption should make the request early enough to allow time to complete the affidavit and have it notarized prior to submission to the University.

3. How much time do I have to comply with the requirements outlined above?

Because compliance with the law may take a considerable period of time, applicants should obtain the documentation required above as soon as possible after submitting their housing application.

4. What can happen if I don't timely comply with the requirements outlined above?

University housing contracts for on-campus housing accommodations are extended with the understanding that future residents will comply with the requirements as noted above. The University cannot allow students to move into campus housing who do not comply with the law. No room assignment will be issued until all paperwork is completed and turned into the University Housing Department. To avoid these consequences, applicants should complete their compliance requirements without delay.

5. Where do I send the documentation noted above?

Documentation of compliance with the Meningitis Vaccination may be delivered to:

Delivery Method	
Hand Delivery	4601 Cheek St Beaumont, TX 77705
By Mail	Lamar University Resident Life PO Box 10040 Beaumont, Texas 77710
By Fax	409-880-8522
By E-mail (pdf format only)	Housing@lamar.edu

6. Where can I get more information about Bacterial Meningitis?

<http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html>

7. Policies Subject to Change:

The University, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to make exceptions and changes to the assignment priorities and policies without prior notice and without compensation to applicants waiting for assignment to university housing.