

Information Regarding Bacterial Meningitis Vaccinations for Students Living On-Campus

During the last Texas legislative session, Texas House Bill 4189 (HB 4189) was passed and signed into law by Governor Rick Perry. HB 4189 requires that any incoming new student who lives on campus must either receive a vaccination against bacterial meningitis or meet certain criteria for declining such a vaccination before they can live on campus. For the entire text of Texas House Bill 4189, refer to <http://www.legis.state.tx.us/tlodocs/81R/billtext/html/HB04189F.htm>

Beginning on January 1, 2010, incoming students who live on campus will be required to provide either evidence of vaccination against bacterial meningitis or a signed affidavit declining the vaccination prior to living on campus. Students will not receive a housing assignment until one of these two documents is received by the Department of Residence Life.

Evidence of vaccination (must have received vaccination at least 10 days prior to living on campus) must be submitted in one of the following three formats:

1. A document bearing the signature or stamp of the physician or his/her designee, or public health personnel (must include the month, day, and year the vaccination was administered).
2. An official immunization record generated from a state or local health authority (must include the month, day, and year the vaccination was administered).
3. An official record received from school officials, including a record from another state (must include the month, day, and year the vaccination was administered).

Evidence of declining vaccination must be submitted in one of the following two formats:

1. 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.
2. An affidavit signed by the student stating that the student declines the vaccination for bacterial meningitis for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. A conscientious exemption form from the Texas Department of State Health Services must be used. Secure online "Affidavit Request for Exemption from Immunizations for Reasons of Conscience" can be found at <https://webds.dshs.state.tx.us/immco/affidavit.shtm>

All documents should be mailed, faxed, emailed or hand delivered to the Department of Residence Life, Housing Assignments Office.

Mail: Texas A&M University, Housing Assignments Office, 1258 TAMU, College Station, TX 77843-1258

Fax: (979) 862-3122

Email: housing@tamu.edu

Hand Delivery: 140 Cain Hall on the campus of Texas A&M University

Reminder - Students will not receive an official housing assignment until appropriate documents have been received by the Department of Residence Life.

For information about bacterial meningitis, see <http://reslife.tamu.edu/current/safety/notifications.asp> If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Residence Life, Housing Assignments Office, at (979) 845-4744.