

# Meningitis Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 4/27/17

- 1. What are the new meningococcal meningitis vaccination requirements?** A new student who has been admitted into a public, private, or independent institution of higher education must show evidence of receipt of an initial bacterial meningitis vaccination dose or booster within the last five years of the first day of classes. It must be submitted at least **ten** days prior to the first day of the semester in which the student initially enrolls at an institution, or following a break in enrollment of either one fall or spring semester at the same or another institution.
- 2. Why do I need a bacterial meningitis vaccination?** Texas passed a law during a recent legislative session to provide protection from meningococcal meningitis to all new students at an institution of higher education. <http://healthcenter.unt.edu/immunization-requirements>
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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, in English.
  - An official immunization record from a state or local health authority
  - An official record received from school officials, including a record from another state.
- 5. 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:  
The immunization forms must be submitted by **May 12th** for the 3 Week and 8 Week summer 2017 sessions, **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**, for 5 Week 1 and 10 Week summer sessions, **July 7<sup>th</sup>** for 5 Week 2 summer session and **August 18<sup>th</sup>** for Fall 2017 semester.
- 6. What happens if I do not comply with this new requirement?** Your classes will be dropped if you are not in compliance unless you have requested and been granted an extension by UNT for justifiable reasons.
- 7. 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.
- 8. If I am an International student, does my documentation have to be in English?** It is preferable that all documents are to 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. Student name must be in English.
- 9. If I am a continuing student from Spring 2017, 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 2017, and subsequently return to UNT, you would be required to show proof of vaccination prior to the start of classes for that term.
- 10. If I attended classes at UNT during the Fall of 2016, but did not attend classes in the Spring of 2017, will I be required to provide proof of vaccination when I return to UNT?** Yes, since you had a break in enrollment for the spring semester you will be required to submit proof of vaccination.

11. **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 a vaccination against bacterial meningitis. You do need to complete the [Meningitis Online Class Petition](#) and submit it to the UNT Registrar's Office.
12. **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 only during the summer sessions.
13. **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:

<p><b>GRADUATE, INTERNATIONAL, NEW UNDERGRADUATE &amp; TRANSFER STUDENTS</b></p> <p>Office of Admissions 1155 Union Circle #311277 Denton, TX 76203 <a href="mailto:unt.immrec@unt.edu">unt.immrec@unt.edu</a> Fax: 940-565-2681</p>	<p><b>RETURNING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS</b></p> <p>Registrar's Office 1st floor Eagle Student Services Center 1155 Union Circle #311400 Denton, TX 76203 <a href="mailto:registrar@unt.edu">registrar@unt.edu</a> Fax: 940-565-4463 Phone: 940-565-2378</p>
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14. **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 22 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.
  - 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. The form must be signed by a parent if student is under 18, and also must be notarized. Per state requirements, we can only accept the original signed affidavit, not a copy, either electronic or faxed.
15. **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.
16. **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.
17. **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 because research has shown that immunity to bacterial meningitis diminishes between 3 to 5 years after receiving a dose of vaccine.