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Bacterial Meningitis Immunization Verification or Exemption Form

Student Last Name: **Student First Name:**

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY): **Student ID:**

Please submit completed document to Undergraduate Admissions or Graduate Studies.

I have received the Bacterial Meningitis Vaccine and acquired an official vaccination/shot record to support it. I understand that proof of vaccination must be in the form of an original vaccination/shot record and include signatures of administering health professionals, as well as the medical facility stamp and notarization seal.

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EXEMPTION FROM IMMUNIZATION FOR MEDICAL REASONS

The Bacterial meningitis Vaccination required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student. A medical exemption must be declared a permanent exemption or must be resubmitted annually.

☐ Permanent Medical Exemption starting on: ___/___/___ ☐ One Year Medical Exemption starting on: ___/___/___

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VACCINE VERIFICATION & MEDICAL FACILITY INFORMATION (Completed by Physician)

Type of Vaccination:
☐ MCV4 ☐ MPSV4 Other: _____

Date vaccination was administered:

I hereby verify/confirm that the abovenamed student received the mandated Bacterial Meningitis vaccine as required, and that the information provided on this form is true and accurate.

Physician's Printed Name: **Physician Signature:**

Practice/Hospital Name: **Phone Number:**

Physician / Practice Stamp / Public Notary Stamp: **Date Signed:**

Exemption for Reasons of Conscience: Students may submit notarized affidavit stating the student declines the vaccination for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. Visit: http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports

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Important Information About Bacterial Meningitis

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - www.cdc.gov

About Meningitis

Meningitis is a disease caused by the inflammation of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord known as the meningitis. The inflammation is usually caused by an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Meningitis is also referred to as spinal meningitis.

Meningitis may develop in response to a number of causes, usually bacteria or viruses, but meningitis can also be caused by physical injury, cancer or certain drugs. The severity of illness and the treatment for meningitis differ depending on the cause. Thus, it is important to know the specific cause of meningitis. For example, bacterial meningitis is usually more severe than viral, fungal, or parasitic meningitis. Although it can be very serious, bacterial meningitis can be treated with antibiotics that can prevent severe illness and reduce the spread of infection from person to person.

People Most at Risk

Bacterial meningitis caused by Neisseria meningitidis bacteria (meningococcal disease) can be fatal and should always be viewed as a medical emergency. About 10% of infected people die from the disease. In non-fatal cases, those affected experience long-term disabilities, such as brain damage, loss of limb, or deafness. Preventing the disease through the use of meningococcal vaccine is important.

Although anyone can get meningitis, pre-teens and adolescents, college freshmen who live in dormitories and travelers to countries where meningitis is always present are at an increased risk for meningococcal disease. Before the availability of effective vaccines, bacterial meningitis was most commonly diagnosed in young children. Now, as a result of the protection offered by current childhood vaccines, bacterial meningitis is more commonly diagnosed among pre-teens and young adults.

College Students and Meningitis

College freshmen, especially those who live in dormitories, are at a slightly increased risk for bacterial meningitis caused by Neisseria meningitidis bacteria (meningococcal disease) compared with other persons of the same age. As of 2009, a total of 34 states have adopted legislation requiring colleges to provide information on risks of meningococcal disease to incoming students and/or students residing on campus, and 15 states have mandated vaccination for certain students, unless a vaccination waiver is provided.

There are currently two vaccines licensed in the United States to protect against meningococcal meningitis. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has issued the following recommendations regarding the use of vaccines for college students:

- College freshmen who want to reduce their risk for meningococcal disease should either be administered vaccine (by a doctor's office or student health service) or directed to a site where vaccine is available.
- The risk for meningococcal disease among non-freshmen college students is similar to that for the general population. However, the vaccine is safe and effective and therefore can be provided to non-freshmen students who want to reduce their risk for meningococcal disease.