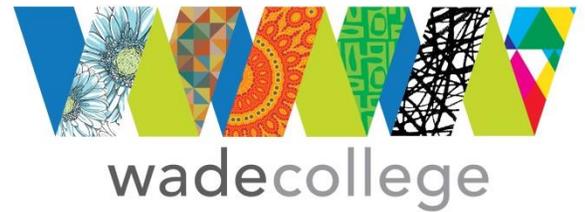


Meningitis Vaccine Information



Beginning on January 1, 2014, all entering students are required to show evidence of an initial bacterial meningitis vaccine or a booster dose during the five-year period preceding and at least 10 days prior to the first day of the first trimester in which the student initially enrolls at an institution. An entering student includes a first-time student of an institution of higher education or private or independent institution of higher education and includes a transfer student, or a student who previously attended an institution of higher education before January 1, 2012, and who is enrolling in the same or another institution of higher education following a break in enrollment of at least one fall or spring trimester.

Bacterial Meningitis is a serious, potentially deadly disease that can progress extremely fast - so take utmost caution. It is an inflammation of the membranes that surround the brain and spinal cord. The bacteria that cause meningitis can also infect the blood. This disease strikes about 3,000 Americans each year, including 100-125 on college campuses, leading to 5-15 deaths among college students every year. There is a treatment, but those who survive may develop severe health problems or disabilities.

Exceptions to Bacterial Meningitis Vaccination Requirement

- A student is not required to submit evidence of receiving the vaccination against bacterial meningitis if the student meets any of the following criteria: The student is 22 years of age or older by the first day of the start of the semester (effective 1/1/2014)

A student is not required to submit evidence of receiving the vaccination against bacterial meningitis if the student submits to the institution:

- An affidavit or certificate signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States, stating that in the physician's opinion, the vaccination 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 (DSHS) must be used.

Where can I get the meningococcal meningitis vaccine? How much does it cost?

Contact your primary care physician. The price of the meningitis vaccination depends on your insurance coverage and your physician's practice. Some insurance plans require a co-payment for preventative vaccinations, but others may fully cover the cost. The vaccine may also be available at area health care clinics and pharmacies. You may also wish to contact area public health agencies to ask whether the agency offers subsidized meningitis vaccine doses to lower-income, uninsured students. Availability varies by clinic site and demand.

Tarrant County Public Health: <http://health.tarrantcounty.com> for a list of public health clinics or call 817-321-4700.

Dallas County Health and Human Services: <http://www.dallascounty.org/department/hhs/> for a list of clinics and phone numbers or call 214-819-2162.