

## Verification of Vaccination against Bacterial Meningitis

According to notification received from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (regarding Senate Bill 1107 and Texas Education Code, Section 51.9192, Subchapter Z), entering or returning BMA Seminary students must show evidence of being immunized against bacterial meningitis prior to their enrollment. Students must provide acceptable evidence of vaccination or booster dose that was administered during the preceding five-year period and at least 10 days prior to the first day of the first semester in which the student enrolls initially.

*Please identify the means by which you are demonstrating evidence of the vaccination or booster dose. Acceptable evidence 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 dose or booster was administered;
- \_\_\_\_\_ an official immunization record generated from a state or local health authority; or an official record received from school officials, including a record from another state.

*Please identify the appropriate **exemption** from the requirement (if applicable):*

- \_\_\_\_\_ I will be 22 years of age or older by the first day of the start of the semester.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I will be enrolled only in online or other distance courses.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I (or my parent or guardian) am submitting (to BMA seminary) an affidavit or a certificate signed by a physician duly licensed to practice in the U.S. who verifies that such a vaccination would be injurious to my health and well-being.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am submitting an affidavit to BMA Seminary (with my signature) stating my decline of the vaccination for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief (if applicable). I am using the [appropriate conscientious exemption form](#) from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Vaccination Requirements against Bacterial Meningitis beginning January 1, 2012**

BMA Seminary received notification from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (regarding Senate Bill 1107 and Texas Education Code, Section 51.9192, Subchapter Z) that beginning January 1, 2012 students entering the seminary must show evidence of being immunized against bacterial meningitis prior to their enrollment. The following information summarizes the notification information.

According to information provided by the THECB, first-time students at BMA Seminary or returning students (who did not attend during the fall 2011 semester) must provide acceptable evidence of vaccination or booster dose that was administered during the preceding five-year period and at least 10 days prior to the first day of the first semester in which the student enrolls initially. Acceptable evidence 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 dose or booster was administered; an official immunization record generated from a state or local health authority; or an official record received from school officials, including a record from another state. A lawfully authorized health practitioner must administer the vaccination.

Certain students may be *exempted* from the requirement to submit evidence of receiving the vaccination or booster against bacterial meningitis if the student is 22 years of age or older by the first day of the start of the semester, or the student is enrolled only in online or other distance courses, or the student is enrolled in a continuing education course or program that is less than 360 contact hours, or continuing education training, or is enrolled in a dual credit course taught at a public or private K-12 facility not located on a higher education institution campus, or the student is incarcerated in a Texas prison. Students (or a parent or guardian of a student) are not required to submit such evidence if the student (parent or guardian) submits (to the seminary) an affidavit or a certificate signed by a physician duly licensed to practice in the U.S. who verifies such that such a vaccination would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student; or the student may submit an affidavit (signed by the student) stating the student declines the vaccination for reasons **of** conscience, including a religious belief. The student must use a conscientious exemption form from the Texas Department of State Health Services. The exception does not apply during a disaster or public health emergency, terrorist attack, hostile military or paramilitary action, or extraordinary law enforcement emergency declared so by an appropriate official or authority of the Texas Department of State Health Services effecting the location of the seminary.