



## **Attention Students:**

### **Proof of Meningitis Vaccination Required**

**What:** State of Texas requires immunization for bacterial meningitis.

Students who are 21 years old and under are required to submit evidence of being immunized against bacterial meningitis.

As of January 1, 2014, all entering students at an institution of higher education are required to show proof of an initial meningococcal vaccination or a booster dose during the five year period prior to enrolling (SB 62.83<sup>rd</sup> (R) Texas Legislature)

They must get the vaccine at least 10 days before the semester begins.

**When:** Effective October 1, 2013

**Who:** Students must provide Baptist University of the Americas with proof of meningitis vaccine if:

- You are enrolling for the first time as a student in any of our programs including BBI and ESL.
- You are returning after a semester break in enrollment
- You are transferring to BUA from another college or university

#### **What is the deadline to turn in proof of vaccination?**

You must submit proof of meningitis vaccination (or booster within the last five years) to the Admissions/Registrar's Office **before** registering for class. The date of the vaccination must be at least 10 days before the first day of class. This allows time for the vaccination to take effect.

#### **Acceptable Proof of Meningitis Vaccine:**

At least one of the following must be faxed, mailed, emailed (with an attached PDF file) or submitted (in person) to the Admissions/Registrar's Office:

1. Certification from a physician or clinic that the student has been vaccinated during the five-year period immediately preceding and prior to registration.

2. An immunization record from a state or local health authority or an official record received from school officials, including a record from another state (must be within five years).

The information will be maintained in the Admissions/Registrar's Office in accordance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) regulations and the Health and Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

**Important Note: *Students who fail to submit required meningitis vaccine documentation will be restricted from registering for classes.***

### **What is meningitis?**

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

BUA students may obtain bacterial meningitis vaccinations from their own physicians, local health departments, clinics, area drug stores and similar facilities.

### **How do I find out more information?**

More information about the causes, symptoms, types, risks and seriousness as well as ways to prevent bacterial meningitis is available at the following website:

- Centers for Disease Control's meningitis website:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html>.

### **Exemptions from submitting proof of Meningitis Vaccine:**

**You do not need to provide proof of meningitis vaccination if:**

- You are 22 years of age or older (by the first day of the semester in which you are enrolled.)

**Exemptions:** A BUA student or the student's parents or guardians are not required to submit evidence of the bacterial meningitis vaccination if the student, parent or guardian submits one of the following affidavits, based on health and well-being or for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs. For either of these exemptions, you must submit to the Admissions/Registrar's Office:

- The BUA bacterial meningitis vaccination Exemption Form and one of the following:

- An affidavit or certificate signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States in which it is stated, in the doctor's opinion, that the vaccination would injure the health and well-being of the student; or
- An affidavit signed by the student stating that she or he declines to take the vaccination for bacterial meningitis for reasons of conscience, including religious belief. (Form Attached.)

Enrollment Management and Student Services  
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