**Bacterial Meningitis:** All new or returning students entering UTMB after January 1, 2014 (a “returning student” is an individual with a break in enrollment at UTMB of three or more months) must provide evidence of vaccination at least 10 days prior to the first day of the first semester in which the student initially enrolls or returns after a break in enrollment. The vaccination (or booster) dose must have been administered during the five-year period preceding this date.

Evidence of vaccination that will be accepted includes:

1. a form signed or stamped by a physician (or his/her designee) or public health personnel which shows the month, day, and year the vaccination dose or booster was administered;
2. an official immunization record generated from a state or local health authority; or
3. an official record received from school officials, including a record from another state.

A student is not required to submit evidence of vaccination (or a booster dose) against bacterial meningitis if:

1. the student is twenty-two years of age or older by the first day of the first semester in which he/she wishes to enroll;
2. the student is enrolled in online or other distance education courses only, UNLESS the student is involved in any face to face interaction, including on campus orientation, in which event they are NOT exempt from this requirement.
3. the student is enrolled in a continuing education course or program that is less than 360 contact hours, or continuing education corporate training; or
4. the student submits:
   (A) 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 that, in the physician’s opinion, the vaccination required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student; or
   (B) an affidavit signed by the student stating that the student declines the vaccination for bacterial meningitis for reasons of conscience, including religious belief. An exemption for reasons of conscience affidavit form developed and issued by the Texas Department of State Health Services must be utilized to claim this exemption (available online at: [www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/immunize/school)). No other forms or reproductions will be allowed. This DSHS affidavit form must be notarized and received by UTMB before the first day of class. The affidavit form must be submitted within 90 days from the date it is notarized.

**NOTE:** The exemption noted in (4)(B) above does not apply during a disaster or public health emergency, terrorist attack, hostile military or paramilitary action, or extraordinary law enforcement emergency declared by an appropriate official or authority from the Texas Department of State Health Services and is in effect for the location of the institution the student attends.