



ODESSA COLLEGE APPLICATION FOR HOUSING - Supplement

Beginning Jan 1, 2010, all public colleges and universities in Texas are required by the action of the 81st Texas Legislature, to require all new and transfer students to on-campus housing to provide proof of receiving the bacterial meningitis vaccination. Evidence of the student having received the vaccination from an appropriate health practitioner must be received by the administrative official a minimum of 10 days prior to the student taking up residence in on-campus housing.

Students who cannot provide proof of vaccination or a physician-signed medical exemption will be required to seek lodging off-campus at their own expense. A campus housing key may be issued once vaccination has been administered and the 10 pay period has fully elapsed.

Acceptable Evidence of Vaccination Includes:

- The month, day, and year the vaccination was administered;
- The signature or stamp of the physician or his/her designee, or public health personnel; or
- 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.

Documentation may be mailed or delivered to the following housing official:

Karen Lane, Housing Coordinator
Century Commons
2311 Andrews Highway
Odessa, TX 79764

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BACTERIAL MENINGITIS

This information is being provided to all Odessa College students living on-campus. 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 causes meningitis can also infect the blood. This disease strikes about 3,000 Americans each year, including 100-125 on college campuses, leading to five to 15 deaths among college students every year. There is a treatment, but those who survive may develop severe health problems or disabilities.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

High fever	Severe headache	Rash or purple patches on skin	Vomiting	Light sensitivity
Stiff neck	Confusion and sleepiness	Nausea	Lethargy	Seizures

There may be a rash of tiny, red-purple spots caused by bleeding under the skin. These can occur anywhere on the body.

The more symptoms, the higher the risk, so when these symptoms appear seek immediate medical attention.

HOW IS BACTERIAL MENINGITIS DIAGNOSED?

Diagnosis is made by a medical provider and is usually based on a combination of clinical symptoms and laboratory results from spinal fluid and blood tests.

Early diagnosis and treatment can greatly improve the likelihood of recovery.

HOW IS THE DISEASE TRANSMITTED?

The disease is transmitted when people exchange saliva (such as by kissing, or by sharing drinking containers, utensils, cigarettes, toothbrushes, etc.) or come in contact with respiratory or throat secretions.

CONTINUED ON BACK

HOW DO YOU INCREASE YOUR RISK OF GETTING BACTERIAL MENINGITIS?

- Exposure to saliva by sharing cigarettes, water bottles, eating utensils, food, kissing, etc.
- Living in close conditions (such as sharing a room/suite in a dorm or group home).

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DISEASE?

- Death (in 18 to 24 hours from perfectly well to dead)
- Permanent brain damage
- Kidney failure
- Learning disability
- Hearing loss, blindness
- Limb damage (fingers, toes, arms, legs) that requires amputation
- Gangrene
- Coma
- Convulsions

CAN THE DISEASE BE TREATED?

- Antibiotic treatment, if received early, can save lives and chances of recovery are increased. However, permanent disability or death can still occur.
- Vaccinations are available and should be considered for:
 - * Those living in close quarters,
 - * College students 25 years old or younger.
- Vaccinations are effective against four of the five most common bacterial types that cause 70 percent of the disease in the U.S. (but does not protect against all types of meningitis).
- Vaccinations take 7-10 days to become effective, with protection lasting three to five years.
- The cost of the vaccine varies, so check with your health care provider.
- Vaccination is very safe - most common side effects are redness and minor pain at the injection site of up to two days.
- Vaccination is available through local physicians.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION?

- Contact your own health care provider.
- Contact your local or regional Texas Department of Health Office (2301 Big Spring, Midland, TX or call (432) 683-9492.
- Contact web sites: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo or www.acha.org