



**Report on Internet-based  
Meningococcal Exemption  
Requests for  
Public Junior and Community Colleges  
School Year 2013 - 2014**

**As Required By  
Texas Education Code, Chapter 51, Section 51.9192 and  
Senate Bill 62, 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013**



**Department of State Health Services  
September 2014**

- This page is intentionally left blank -

## Table of Contents

<b>Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Background .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Online Meningococcal Exemptions for School Year 2013-2014.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Conclusions.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Appendix A: Exemptions Requested By Public Junior and Community College .....</b>	<b>4</b>

- This page is intentionally left blank -

## **Executive Summary**

In accordance with Texas Education Code, Chapter 51, Section 51.9192, and Senate Bill 62, 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, the *Report on Internet-based Meningococcal Exemption Requests for Public Junior and Community Colleges School Year 2013 – 2014* is presented to the Legislature.

Senate Bill 62 requires the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to develop an Internet-based process for public junior and community college students to request an exemption for reasons of conscience from the meningococcal vaccine requirement for college students. The web portal supporting the Internet-based process is located at <https://corequestjc.dshs.texas.gov>.

The legislation also requires DSHS to submit an annual report on the number of exemptions requested through the Internet-based process for public junior and community colleges for the preceding school year.

From October 15, 2013, to May 30, 2014, a total of 20,700 exemptions were processed through the web portal supporting the Internet-based process. Exemptions for reason of conscience processed for four junior or community college systems represent 72.2 percent of the total number of exemption requests for the time period: the Lone Star College System District (7,719); Austin Community College (2,686); El Paso Community College District (2,382); and Houston Community College (2,167).

## **Introduction**

Per Senate Bill 62, 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, DSHS “shall report to the legislature annually the number of exemptions applied for in the preceding academic year using the Internet-based process under Subsection (d-3).”

## **Background**

Senate Bill 62 amended the Texas Education Code, Chapter 51, Section 51.9192, and required DSHS to “develop and implement a secure, Internet-based process to be used exclusively at those public junior colleges that elect to use the process to allow an entering student to apply online for an exemption from the vaccination requirement under this section for reasons of conscience.” The statute also requires DSHS to include a statement on the website indicating the benefits and risks of receiving the immunization and not receiving the immunization. The act took effect on October 1, 2013.

The web portal supporting the Internet-based exemption process for public junior and community colleges, <https://corequestjc.dshs.texas.gov>, became operational on October 15, 2013. Through the web portal, public junior and community college students are able to print their meningococcal exemption from the online application, sign it, and submit it directly to public junior and community college officials.

## **Online Meningococcal Exemptions for School Year 2013-2014**

From October 15, 2013, to May 30, 2014, a total of 20,700 exemptions were processed through the web portal supporting the Internet-based process. The table below provides information on the public junior and community colleges with the highest number of exemptions processed through the web portal. The number of exemptions processed for these four junior or community colleges represents 72.2 percent of the total number processed for all public junior and community colleges for the time period.

**Table 1. Public Junior or Community Colleges with Highest Number of Exemptions Requested**

<b>Public Junior or Community College</b>	<b>No. of Exemptions Requested by Students</b>
Lone Star College System District	7,719
Austin Community College	2,686
El Paso Community College District	2,382
Houston Community College	2,167
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,954</b>

Appendix A provides the number of exemptions applied for in the School Year 2013-2014 by public junior and community college.

## **Conclusion**

DSHS will continue to collect data on the number of exemptions processed through the web portal supporting the Internet-based process, and provide annual reports to the Texas Legislature, in accordance with statutory requirements.

**Appendix A: Exemptions Requested By Public Junior and Community College**

Table 2 provides the number of exemptions as requested by public junior and community college students and processed through the web portal supporting the Internet-based process.

**Table 2. Exemptions Requested by Public Junior and Community College**

<b>Public Junior College/Community College</b>	<b>No. of Exemptions Requested by Students</b>
Alamo Community College District	423
Alvin Community College	58
Amarillo College	431
Angelina College	112
Austin Community College	2,686
Blinn College	292
Brazosport College	37
Brookhaven Community College	6
Cedar Valley Community College	2
Central Texas College	61
Cisco College	11
Clarendon College	1
Coastal Bend College	82
College of the Mainland Community College District	7
Collin County Community College District	40
Dallas Christian College	1
Dallas County Community College District	412
Del Mar College	10
East Williamson County Higher Education Center	1
Eastfield Community College	5
El Paso Community College District	2,382
Frank Phillips College	9
Galveston College	5
Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics	1
Grayson College	68
Hill College	12
Houston Community College	2,167
Howard County Junior College District	3
Jarvis Christian College	2
Kilgore College	161
Lamar State College Orange	1
Laredo Community College	961
Lee College	44

<b>Public Junior College/Community College</b>	<b>No. of Exemptions Requested by Students</b>
Lone Star College System District	7,719
McLennan Community College	243
Midland College	191
Montgomery County College	1
Mountain View College	1
Navarro College	10
North Central Texas College	20
North Lake Community College	6
Northeast Texas Community College	50
Odessa College	17
Panola College	41
Paris Junior College	230
Ranger College	1
San Jacinto Community College	83
South Plains College	107
South Texas College	22
Southwest Texas Junior College	2
Tarrant County College District	608
Temple College	45
Texarkana College	183
Texas Southmost College	68
Texas State Technical College System	16
Trinity Valley Community College	172
Tyler Junior College	28
Vernon College	1
Victoria College	190
Weatherford College	32
Western Texas College	2
Wharton County Junior College	117
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,700</b>

