



**Report on Internet-Based  
Meningococcal Exemption  
Requests for  
Public Junior and Community Colleges  
School Year 2014-15**

**As Required By  
Texas Education Code, Section 51.9192**



**Department of State Health Services  
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## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Online Meningococcal Exemptions for School Year 2014-15.....</b>	<b>1</b>

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## **Introduction**

In accordance with [Texas Education Code Section 51.9192](#), the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has developed an internet-based exemption process for public junior and community college students to request an exemption for reasons of conscience from meningococcal vaccine requirements for college students. 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.

The web portal supporting the [internet-based exemption process](#) for public junior and community colleges 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. In accordance with the statute, the online process portal was designed to ensure that duplicate exemption requests are avoided to the greatest extent possible. Also as mandated by law, the exemption form used by a student to claim an exemption under the process contains a statement indicating that the student understands the benefits and risks of the immunization and the benefits and risks of not receiving the immunization.

## **Online Meningococcal Exemptions for School Year 2014-15**

For the school year beginning August 1, 2014 through May 30, 2015, a total of 42,507 exemptions were processed through the web portal supporting the Internet-based process. This is an increase from the 20,700 exemptions processed in school year 2013-14. Exemptions for reason of conscience processed for five junior or community college systems represent 69.8 percent of the total number of exemption requests for the time period: the Lone Star College System District (15,939); Austin Community College (5,267); El Paso Community College District (3,441); Houston Community College (3,264); and Alamo Community College District (1,778).

The table below provides information on the public junior and community colleges with the highest number of exemptions processed through the web portal.

**Table 1. School Year 2014-15 Exemptions Requested by Public Junior and Community Colleges**

<b>Public Junior College/Community College</b>	<b>No. of Exemptions Requested by Students</b>
Alamo Community College District	1,778
Alvin Community College	81
Amarillo College	1,339
Angelina College	197
Austin Community College	5,267
Blinn College	313
Brazosport College	74
Central Texas College	150
Cisco College	57
Clarendon College	10
Coastal Bend College	98
College of the Mainland Community College District	9
Collin County Community College District	275
Dallas County Community College District	922
Del Mar College	84
El Paso Community College District	3,441
Frank Phillips College	30
Galveston College	23
Grayson College	351
Hill College	113
Houston Community College	3,264
Howard County Junior College District	310
Kilgore College	357
Laredo Community College	1,257
Lee College	96
Lone Star College System District	15,939
McLennan Community College	508
Midland College	597
Navarro College	24
North Central Texas College	210
Northeast Texas Community College	53
Odessa College	47
Panola College	102
Paris Junior College	468
Ranger College	32
San Jacinto Community College	380

<b>Public Junior College/Community College</b>	<b>No. of Exemptions Requested by Students</b>
South Plains College	163
South Texas College	64
Southwest Texas Junior College	12
Tarrant County College District	981
Temple College	501
Texarkana College	741
Texas Southmost College	103
Trinity Valley Community College	403
Tyler Junior College	64
Vernon College	3
Victoria College	349
Weatherford College	115
Western Texas College	1
Wharton County Junior College	191
Other	560
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,507</b>

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Immunization Branch