## Report on Internet-Based Meningococcal Vaccine Exemption Requests for Public Junior and Community Colleges School Year 2015-16

As Required By Texas Education Code, Section 51.9192

Department of State Health Services December 2016

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## Introduction

Texas Education Code, <u>Section 51.9192(d-3)</u> requires the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to develop and implement a secure internet-based process to allow public junior and community college students to apply for an exemption from the meningococcal vaccine requirement for reasons of conscience. The exemption process must provide a statement indicating that the student understands the benefits and risks of receiving or not receiving the immunization. <u>Section 51.9192(d-5)</u> requires DSHS to report to the Legislature annually the number of exemptions applied for in the preceding school year. The internet-based process became operational in 2013.

## Online Meningococcal Exemptions for School Year 2015-16

A total of 43,711 exemptions were processed for the 2015-16 school year (August 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016), an increase of 2.8 percent from the 2014-15 school year when 42,507 exemptions were processed. The five college systems below represented 69.9 percent of the total number of exemptions:

- Lone Star College System District (15,004)
- Austin Community College (6,517)
- El Paso Community College District (4,406)
- Houston Community College (3,143)
- Laredo Community College (1,360)

The following table provides the total number of students applying for exemptions by college.

Public Junior/Community College	No. of Exemptions
Alamo Community College District	588
Alvin Community College	94
Amarillo College	1,289
Angelina College	175
Austin Community College	6,517
Blinn College	418
Brazosport College	82
Central Texas College	114
Cisco College	26
Clarendon College	9
Coastal Bend College	28
College of the Mainland Community College District	17

Collin County Community College District	451	
Dallas County Community College District	1,186	
Del Mar College	63	
El Paso Community College District	4,406	
Frank Phillips College	18	
Galveston College	77	
Grayson College	779	
Hill College	119	
Houston Community College	3,143	
Howard County Junior College District	411	
Kilgore College	288	
Laredo Community College	1,360	
Lee College	52	
Lone Star College System District	15,004	
McLennan Community College	622	
Midland College	660	
Navarro College	71	
North Central Texas College	174	
Northeast Texas Community College	123	
Odessa College	126	
Panola College	40	
Paris Junior College	526	
Ranger College	13	
San Jacinto Community College	324	
South Plains College	182	
South Texas College	52	
Southwest Texas Junior College	19	
Tarrant County College District	1,126	
Temple College	404	

tal	43,711
her	685
harton County Junior College	238
estern Texas College	12
eatherford College	113
ctoria College	388
rmon College	6
ler Junior College	55
inity Valley Community College	405
xas Southmost College	56
xarkana College	577

Source: Texas Department of State Health Services, Immunization Unit