Effective January 1, 2012, Senate Bill 1107 requires all students entering an institution of higher education (public and private) to either receive a vaccination against bacterial meningitis or meet certain criteria for declining such a vaccination 10 days before the first day of classes. Therefore, if you are under the age of 30 and are 1) a returning student, who did NOT attend classes at LSC-O the preceding long semester, 2) an entering freshman, OR 3) a transfer student, you must submit evidence of vaccination against bacterial meningitis. Students that are taking online only courses DO NOT need to submit evidence of vaccination against bacterial meningitis. However, must complete a signed notarized waiver that may be obtained from the Admission & Records Office. To learn important facts about Bacterial Meningitis http://www.cdc.gov/meningitis/about/faq.html

Students planning to attend Lamar State College-Orange need to submit proof of vaccination or exemption before registering for classes. Students who do not qualify for an exemption must be immunized at least 10 days prior to the first class day. Vaccinations are valid for five years. Winter Mini 2012 classes begin December 17, 2012, students should be immunized by December 7, 2012. Spring 2013 classes begin January 14, 2013 students should be immunized by January 4, 2013.

Evidence of Vaccination must verify that the vaccination was received at least 10 days prior to attending classes.
- A document bearing the signature or stamp of a physician, his or her designee, or public health official that states the name of the vaccination, the name and address of the medical facility, and the day, month and year that the vaccination was administered.
- An official immunization record generated by a state or local health authority. This record must state the name of the vaccination, the name and address of the medical facility, and the day, month and year that the vaccination was administered.
- An official school record that indicates a current bacterial meningitis vaccination. This record must state the name of the vaccination, the name and address of the medical facility, and the day, month and year that the vaccination was administered.

Evidence to Decline Vaccination must be submitted in the following format:
- To claim an exclusion for medical reasons, the student must present a statement signed by a physician (M.D. or D.O.), duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States who has examined the student, in which it is stated that, in the physician's opinion, the vaccine required is medically contraindicated or poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the student. Unless it is written in the statement that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption statement is valid for only one year from the date signed by the physician.
- An affidavit signed by the student stating that the student declines the vaccination for bacterial meningitis for reasons of conscience, including a religious belief. A conscientious exemption form from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board must be used and can be downloaded here - AFFIDAVIT EXEMPTION FROM IMMUNIZATIONS FOR BACTERIAL MENINGITIS FOR REASONS OF CONSCIENCE.

Important Considerations
- The bacterial meningitis vaccination must be administered by a Health Practitioner authorized by law to administer an immunization.
- Vaccinations older than 5 years will require a booster.

How to Submit Evidence of Vaccination or an Affidavit to Decline: LSC-O has chosen the services of Magnus Health to collect, review, and securely store all student documents pertaining to the meningitis vaccine. Magnus Health's SMR (Student Medical Record) is a web-based solution that will allow us to manage the vast number of vaccination records that we have to collect to comply with the new state law. All students that fall under this requirement must register through Magnus Health's SMR, ensuring that the course registration process is not delayed. Students will not be able to register for class until this requirement has been completed.
- Students will receive an email within three days from Magnus Health to their personal email address provided to LSCO containing their username and a temporary password. There is a $10 account fee.
- Students will be able to upload their vaccination documentation or they will download forms to be completed and upload, mail or fax to Magnus Health.

Lamar State College-Orange encourages students to obtain the vaccine at their primary care physician's office. If you have insurance, most vaccines will require only a co-pay. Local pharmacies also administer the vaccine. Texas Department of State Health Services will NOT administer the shot to anyone over the age of 18.

If you have any additional questions please contact customer support from Magnus Health SMR, which is available to you by phone (877-461-6831) and email (service@magnushealthportal.com).
Bacterial Meningitis FAQs

Who is required to comply with the Meningitis Vaccination Law?
All entering students (under age 30) enrolling in public, private, or independent institutions of higher education on or after January 1, 2012.

(AND)
Any students (under age 30) who attended an institution of higher education prior to January 1, 2012 and are re-enrolling in an institution of higher education following a break of at least one fall or spring semester.

Does this requirement apply to me if I take classes online or at a distance education site?
- If you are only taking classes online, you do not fall under this requirement
- If you are taking classes online and on campus, you must complete the requirement
- If you are only taking classes at a distance education site, you do not fall under this requirement
- If you are taking classes at a distance education site and on campus, you must complete the requirement

Where can I get the bacterial meningitis vaccine?
If you have not been vaccinated for bacterial meningitis within the past 5 years, you can obtain the vaccine from:
- your healthcare provider
- Pharmacy - Walgreens 16th Street, Orange, Texas 77639, (409) 883-0876
The vaccine must be administered at least 10 days prior to the first day of classes.

What if I don’t know or remember if I have been vaccinated?
Please contact your local health care provider for a medical opinion.

What constitutes a bacterial meningitis vaccination?
The vaccines recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – MCV4 and MPSV4 – offer protection for Meningitis groups A, C, Y and W-135. Currently, MCV4 and MPSV4 are the only vaccines that are accepted. Please visit the CDC website (http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/downloads/vis-mening.pdf) for additional information.

How long will it take for my record to be approved?
Magnus Health will review your record within 2 business days from the time it is received. If you choose to fax or mail your record instead of uploading it directly, that time period will begin when the document is received by Magnus Health reviewers, not from the time that it was sent.

How do I submit proof of vaccination or exemption for the meningitis vaccine?
When you log into your Magnus Health account, you will be given instructions on how to submit the required documentation via a 60-second, introductory video. The video provides a comprehensive overview of how to submit your documentation by uploading a PDF directly to your account. If you are unable to upload, you can alternatively fax or mail the document to Magnus Health. If you need any additional assistance, please contact Magnus Health’s customer service.

Who should I contact if I have questions regarding my Magnus Health account?
Magnus Health’s customer service team is available to answer any questions that you might have. You may email them directly at service@magnushealthportal.com, start a live chat, or call (877) 461-6831.

What happens if I don’t submit proper forms or proof of being vaccinated?
A hold will be placed on your student record and you will not be able to register for classes until proper medical documentation is received.

What are my options if I wish to decline the vaccination?
You must obtain a waiver, signed by a physician who is duly registered and licensed to practice medicine in the United States, stating that, in the physician’s opinion, the required vaccination for bacterial meningitis would be injurious to your health and well-being.

(OR)
If a student has an objection to receiving the vaccination for reasons of conscience, a conscientious exemption form from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board must be used and can be downloaded here - http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/reports/PDF/2554.PDF?CFID=25902958&CFTOKEN=21470812.