

August 16, 2013

From: Dr. Bonnie L. Burchett, Director of Housing and Residence Life

Subject: Important information for all new in-coming students to on-campus housing under the age of 22

A new state law requires that all new incoming students under the age of 22 years of age and living on-campus must provide medical documentation of having received adequate immunization against meningococcal disease within the past five years. This requirement became effective July 1, 2013 for all state public higher education institutions. It was enacted by the Tennessee General Assembly as the "Jacob Nunley Act" (PC 114). Jacob was a resident student at MTSU last year and died from meningitis. This is an additional requirement to all previous state immunization requirements.

The Tennessee Board of Regents has informed us that we may not allow any student to receive a key and move into campus housing, unless proof of the vaccination is provided. Please remember that our role is to document compliance with the legislation passed by our state officials to protect the health of students. We do not have the ability to provide exceptions or waivers for this requirement. We want to do everything possible to make sure that students do not encounter any delays or problems when they arrive on campus to check-in to their residence hall/apartment.

If you have not already provided proof of adequate immunization, then either bring a copy with you for move-in or fax it to Student Health Clinic at 423-439-4560.* Please include your ID/E# on the document. If you have not had the vaccination or will not be able to provide proof of having vaccination, we recommend you pursue one of these options before arriving to campus, which will simplify your check-in experience.

- Make an appointment with your primary care physician before coming to campus. This is probably the easiest method, especially if you want to file insurance.
- Visit your local health department. The cost of the vaccination may be reduced or even free based on certain factors. Please contact them for more information.
- Use one of the quick care locations provided in many supermarkets, drug stores, etc.

However, if you are unable to obtain the vaccination prior to your arrival on campus:

- The Student Health Clinic will be available during the check-in times, including the weekend of August 24 and 25 to give the vaccination at a cost of \$140. You will be able to file insurance, but if you do not have insurance, you will be able to sign a payment plan with the Student Health Clinic.

Again, we ask your help to comply with this requirement. We will have no option, but to turn away any student that cannot provide proof of the meningitis vaccination. If you have any specific questions about getting the vaccination, please contact the Student Health Clinic at 423-439-4225. Thank you in advance for your assistance and support.

*The information on your Goldlink Immunization Tab does not currently reflect the required housing meningococcal vaccine.