

Health Information

To view the Board policies associated with this section, go to <https://pol.tasb.org/PolicyOnline/PolicyDetails?key=304&code=FFAC>.

Collin College is dedicated to the total well-being of its students. Alcohol and drug awareness programs, health fairs, intramural activities, and physical fitness courses are geared toward student wellness.

First Aid Supplies

Collin College does not employ a nurse or physician. First aid supplies are available at the following offices on each campus:

1. Academic/Workforce Division Offices,
2. Campus Provost and Executive Dean Offices,
3. Facilities/Plant Operations,
4. Fitness Centers,
5. Information Centers, and
6. Student Engagement Offices.

Communicable Diseases

Communicable diseases include, but are not limited to, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), AIDS-related complex (ARC), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), influenza, leprosy, measles, tuberculosis, viral hepatitis-A (infectious hepatitis), and viral hepatitis-B (serum hepatitis).

HIV/AIDS Information

Each institution of higher education, including each college district, will make available the institution's policy on HIV infection and AIDS to students by including the policy in the student handbook, if practicable, or by any other method, in accordance with [Section 51.919\(3\)\(b\)\(c\)](#) of the [Texas Education Code](#).

Collin College has adopted the *HIV/AIDS Model Workplace Guidelines for Businesses, State Agencies, and State Contractors* approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS). These guidelines are available at www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/policy/policies/090-021.shtm. Additional Information on HIV and AIDS as well as a brochure and fact sheet developed by TDSHS titled *What You Should Know About HIV* and *Facts You Should Know About HIV and AIDS*, respectively, are available upon request from Counseling Services, the Human Resources Department, or at www.dshs.texas.gov/hivstd/info/hiv/. Collin College's AIDS policy is available upon request from Counseling Services or the Human Resources Department. Confidentiality of these requests will be honored.

Basis for Action

Collin College's decisions involving persons who have communicable diseases will be based on current and well-informed medical judgments concerning the diseases, the risks of transmitting the illnesses to others, the symptoms and special circumstances of each individual who has a communicable disease, and a careful weighing of the identified risks and available alternatives for responding to a student with a communicable disease.

Non-Discrimination

Collin College will not discriminate against nor deny any student access to a Collin College facility, program, function, or campus activity solely on the grounds that the student has a communicable disease. Collin College reserves the right to exclude a person with a communicable disease from Collin College facilities, programs, functions, and campus activities if Collin College makes a medically based determination that the restriction is necessary for the welfare of the person who has the disease and/or the welfare of the other members of the Collin College community.

Privacy

Collin College will comply with all pertinent statutes and regulations that protect the privacy of persons in the Collin College community who have a communicable disease. Collin College will ensure procedural safeguards sufficient to maintain the strictest confidence about persons who have HIV infection are in effect throughout the College District.

Bacterial Meningitis

State law (i.e., [Texas Higher Education Code Section 51.9192](#)) requires most new students under the age of 22 entering a higher education institution to show proof of having the bacterial meningitis vaccine 10 days prior to the start of the term. For more information, go to www.collin.edu/admissions/meningitis/.

Bacterial meningitis is an infection of the brain and spinal cord that causes inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain. Several different types of bacteria can cause meningitis. One of the leading causes of bacterial meningitis in the United States is *Neisseria meningitidis*, also called *meningococcal meningitis* (CDC, *Bacterial Meningitis*, 2022, www.cdc.gov/meningitis/index.html).

Bacterial meningitis strikes approximately 600 to 1,000 Americans each year, with the greatest risk of contraction affecting adolescents and young adults (National Meningitis Association, 2021, <https://nmaus.org/nma-disease-prevention-information/statistics-and-disease-facts/>).

Symptoms vary and may include some or all of the following:

1. High fever,
2. Rash or purple patches on the skin,
3. Light sensitivity,
4. Confusion and sleepiness,
5. Severe headache,
6. Nausea and vomiting,
7. Stiff neck, and
8. Seizures.

In addition to the symptoms listed above, an individual may develop a rash of tiny red/purple spots caused by bleeding under the skin. These can occur anywhere on the body. This is a sign of a very serious infection that needs immediate medical care.

How is bacterial meningitis diagnosed?

Diagnosis is made by a medical provider and is usually based on a combination of clinical symptoms and laboratory results from spinal fluid and blood tests. Early diagnosis and treatment can greatly improve the likelihood of recovery.

How is bacterial meningitis transmitted?

The disease is spread through air droplets or direct contact with infected people. Direct contact can happen when people cough, kiss, share drinks or cigarettes, or if they provide certain types of medical aid to a person with bacterial meningitis. When bacterial meningitis is spread, exposed people typically become ill within three (3) to seven (7) days (CDC, *Bacterial Meningitis*, 2021, www.cdc.gov/meningitis/bacterial.html).

Who is at an increased risk of getting bacterial meningitis?

Vaccination against meningococcal disease is recommended for persons at an increased risk of getting bacterial meningitis. Those persons include, but are not limited to, adolescents ages 11-18 years, college freshmen living in dormitories (or sharing apartments), anyone who has a damaged spleen or whose spleen has been removed, and

people who have been exposed to meningitis during an outbreak (CDC, *Meningococcal Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know*, 2021, www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/public/index.html).

What are the possible consequences of the disease?

While most people recover fully, 10-15 percent of people who have blood or brain infections caused by meningococcal disease will die. About 19 percent of people who survive meningococcal disease will have permanent effects such as hearing loss, brain damage, or the loss of a limb (National Meningitis Association, 2021, <https://nmaus.org/nma-disease-prevention-information/five-facts-about-meningococcal-disease-and-prevention/>).

Can the disease be treated?

Antibiotic treatment, if received early, can save lives, and chances of recovery are increased. However, permanent disability or death can still occur. Vaccinations are available and should be considered for those living in close quarters or college students under the age of 22.

These vaccinations are effective against multiple types of bacteria that cause meningococcal disease, but they do not protect against all types of meningitis. Vaccination is very safe. The most common side effects are redness and minor pain at the injection site for up to two (2) days. (CDC, *Bacterial Meningitis*, 2021, www.cdc.gov/meningitis/bacterial.html; and CDC, *Meningococcal Vaccination: What Everyone Should Know*, 2021, www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/mening/public/index.html#how-well-they-work)

Vaccinations are available through local health care providers, many pharmacies, and county health care services. Vaccination costs vary, so students should check with their health care providers.

How can students find out more information?

Students should contact their health care provider or Collin County Health Care Services at 972.548.5500 (McKinney) or 972.424.1460 extension 5500 (metro). Helpful information is available at www.cdc.gov/meningitis/bacterial.html and www.collincountytx.gov/healthcare_services/Pages/immunization.aspx.

Immunizations

The Texas State Board of Health is requesting students born after January 1, 1957, confirm appropriate immunizations or immunity to the following diseases:

1. Measles
2. Mumps
3. Rubella
4. Tetanus/Diphtheria