A bill signed into law and effective August 28, 2002, states that colleges and universities in Pennsylvania are prohibited from accepting individuals living in a dormitory unless they have received a one-time meningitis shot. Exempted from this mandate are students who sign a waiver stating they have some “religious or other objection” to being vaccinated.

For general information purposes, meningitis is an inflammation and infection of the lining of the brain and spinal cord caused by a virus or bacteria. Meningitis strikes about 3,000 Americans each year and claims as many as 300 lives. Between 100 and 125 cases occur in college campuses every year, resulting in the death of five to fifteen of those students who contracted the disease.

Given this law and the information provided to Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, the College encourages all resident students to obtain the vaccine prior to registering and/or attending classes. We are requesting that all commuting student s provide this same information for inclusion in their health records.

If the student is vaccinated against the disease, proof of the vaccination must be sent to the Office of Student Services prior to fall registration.

If the student chooses not to obtain vaccination due to “religious or other reasons,” then a waiver form must be completed and returned to the Office of Student Services prior to registration. This waiver form can be obtained from the Admissions Office.