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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### HIDALGO COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE, AND MCALLEN ISD HOST MENINGITIS VACCINATION AWARENESS EVENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011

#### Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court

**Ramon Garcia**  
County Judge

**Joel Quintanilla**  
Commissioner, Precinct 1

**Hector "Tito" Palacios**  
Commissioner, Precinct 2

**Joe M. Flores**  
Commissioner, Precinct 3

**Joseph Palacios**  
Commissioner, Precinct 4

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**Public Affairs Division**  
Karina Cardoza  
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The Hidalgo County Health Department, in coordination with South Texas College and McAllen ISD, will host a Meningitis Vaccination presentation and clinic on Friday, December 9, 2011 at the Cooper Center for Communication Arts (3200 W. Pecan Blvd. – McAllen Campus). The purpose of the presentation is to raise awareness about a new state requirement aimed at preventing bacterial meningitis to students 18 and under who are attending STC and students from McAllen ISD who have not yet received the immunization.

Effective January 1, 2012, the "Jamie Schanbaum and Nicolis Williams Act" - Texas Senate Bill 1107, will require all entering students (under age 30) at public and private or independent institutions of higher education to have an initial bacterial meningitis vaccination or booster dose during the five-year period preceding, or at least 10 days prior to, the first day of the semester.

Jamie Schanbaum, one of the law's namesakes, will deliver a presentation on her experience as a meningitis survivor to students from STC and McAllen ISD as part of the "When Seconds Count Campaign." Meningitis is a deadly disease which spreads quickly and within hours of the first symptoms can cause organ failure, brain damage, amputations of limbs, or death.

Hidalgo County Health Department will be offering the immunization to students 18 and under from McAllen ISD, with signed permission from parents, at a cost of \$5.00 from 2:00 – 4:00 pm.

This event is **only open to McAllen ISD and STC students**. A press conference will be held immediately after the presentation. All media are invited to attend.

#### DETAILS:

##### **Presentation**

Jamie Schanbaum, *Meningitis Survivor*  
12:30 pm- 1:30 pm

##### **Press Conference**

1:30 pm – 1:50 pm

Cooper Center for Communication Arts  
South Texas College - Pecan Campus  
3200 W. Pecan Blvd. McAllen, TX 78501

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