

### ABOUT THE IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS AT MERCER UNIVERSITY

**Q:** Does a doctor need to sign the immunization form?

**A:** Yes, Mercer University requires a health care official to sign the forms.

**Q:** Are part-time students required to complete the forms?

**A:** Yes, full-time and part-time students are required to complete the immunization record.

**Q:** What immunizations are required?

**A:** For students born after 1956, two doses of MMR or documentation of proven immunity to measles, mumps and Rubella are needed.

**Q:** Can I obtain the immunizations and tuberculosis test at the Student Health Center?

**A:** Yes, MMR and tuberculosis tests can be obtained at the Student Health Center at a reasonable cost.

**Q:** What are the recommendations regarding the meningitis vaccine?

**A:** The meningitis vaccine is recommended for all college students living in residence halls.

**Q:** Why do I need to report tuberculosis skin test (PPD) results in millimeters?

**A:** This is the recommendation of United States health authorities. The determination of a positive or negative test depends on the size of the reaction combined with personal risk factors.

**Q:** Do returning students need tuberculosis testing?

**A:** No, tuberculosis screening is required for new students only.

**Q:** Can blood tests be used to determine the need for an MMR?

**A:** Yes, a blood sample can be used to determine immune status. However, it is less costly and much simpler to obtain an MMR.

**Q:** What if I cannot comply with the immunization requirements?

**A:** **Students cannot move into Mercer residences, participate in fall orientation, or begin classes until the immunization requirements are met.** Accurate and complete immunization information is required. Incomplete information may result in student registration being delayed or even blocked. It is important that you do not delay. Obtaining proof of immunizations may be a time-consuming process, so start now!

**Q:** Is there an exception for conflicting religious beliefs?

**A:** Yes, this information is available upon request from the Student Health Center.

**If you have further questions,  
please call the  
Student Health Center  
at (478) 301-2696.**

**T**he Mercer University Student Health Form is required and must be signed by a physician or other health care provider, and stamped with the provider's name and address. No other immunization forms or physician records will be accepted. Students are encouraged to keep a photocopy of this completed form for their personal records. The Student Health Form is a Mercer document and will not be forwarded to other institutions.

**All students born after 1956** must provide a statement of immunization against Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR), giving the month and the year of immunization. A statement of "up to date" is not sufficient. Two doses of Measles (Rubeola) vaccine are required. You must have been at least 12 months old when the first Measles dose was received. Previous diagnosis of disease is proof of immunity against Measles and Mumps (a physician's statement is required), but not proof of Rubella.

If a student is unable to provide dates of immunization to Measles, Mumps and Rubella, he or she may document immunity by blood test at the student's expense. If this testing shows no immunity to Measles, Mumps or Rubella, the student may register following documentation of the first dose of MMR, with the second to follow within 30 days, if required.

Tuberculosis screening (within the past year) is required of **all new students**. Students at risk for TB will be required to have a PPD skin test (Mantoux). The tine tuberculosis test is **not** acceptable. Students should be tested regardless of prior BCG vaccination. Any student with a positive skin test will be required to provide a report of a normal chest x-ray (done after the positive PPD) to be eligible to register. A physician should evaluate individuals with a positive tuberculosis skin test.

Do not assume that childhood immunizations are adequate; requirements have changed during the past several years. Medical facilities in the U.S. and in other countries are required to keep records of vaccinations. Additional sources of immunization information include doctors' offices, health departments, and schools. Students should make copies of the completed health form for their own files, and then mail the original forms. Do not rely on health care providers, family members, or other colleges to mail the forms.

Exemptions from compliance with the immunization policy include:

1. Religious exemption, written on letterhead stationery, signed by a religious official and notarized.
2. Medical exemption, written on office stationery, and signed by a health care provider. The letter should state the reason for the exemption, and whether the exemption is permanent or temporary.

Immunizations for the following diseases are recommended, but not mandatory: chickenpox (varicella), hepatitis A, hepatitis B, polio, and tetanus. The most recent tetanus booster should have been within the past 10 years. Immunization against meningococcal meningitis is recommended for college students.

Some academic programs have additional immunization requirements. Students are advised to check with their College/School program for any additional requirements.

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