

Augusta University

Policy Library

Immunization Policy

Policy Owner: Dean, Student Life

POLICY STATEMENT

The minimum immunization requirements for all University System of Georgia colleges and universities are established by the Georgia Board of Regents. Specific institutions, with the concurrence of their presidents and the Chancellor, may require some immunizations not required for all new students by this policy. Institutions are also authorized to impose additional immunization requirements for students when, in the opinion of the president of the institution and with concurrence of the Chancellor and appropriate public health authorities, there is a substantial risk of exposure to other communicable diseases preventable by vaccination (BOR Minutes, 1990-91, p.114).

All entering Augusta University students are required to provide Augusta University with documentation of the minimum immunization requirements set forth by the Board of Regents. These requirements can be found at http://www.usg.edu/student_affairs/documents/coinform.pdf. Those students enrolled in a Health Sciences program are required to provide additional documentation/proof of immunity to Augusta University per the requirements of the college of enrollment. A list of these requirements can be found at <http://augusta.edu/shs/immunizations.php>.

All students living in any Augusta University owned or operated Residence Halls must provide proof of immunization for the meningococcal bacteria that causes Meningitis.

This policy is designed to protect all Augusta University students and their contacts from vaccine-preventable diseases and to insure compliance with the University System of Georgia Board of Regents Immunization Policy.

The additional requirements for Health Sciences students are based on the standards for healthcare workers derived from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the American College Health Association (ACHA) for adult immunizations.

Support is provided to all Augusta University colleges and distant learning sites to ensure that medical and immunization requirements are fulfilled for matriculation and program-specific requirements such as clinical rotations. This is not only important for students' health but is mandatory for accreditation purposes. These efforts help to meet the individual health needs of students, to improve and enhance overall "campus health," to aid in campus retention and progression of students, and to contribute to the overall educational experience of

Office of Compliance and Enterprise Risk Management Use Only

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Augusta University's student population.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:

- Alumni Faculty Graduate Students Health Professional Students
 Staff Undergraduate Students Vendors/Contractors Visitors
 Other:

DEFINITIONS

Immunization- The process by which an individual's immune system becomes fortified against a disease-causing agent (known as the immunogen), especially by vaccination.

Titer- Laboratory value (serologic) to verify if an immunization has brought the antibody level up to a protective level, which would indicate that the body has mounted an adequate immune response, and the individual is adequately protected from the disease.

PROCESS & PROCEDURES

Contact:

Student Health Services – 706-721-3448; email: immunizations@augusta.edu

Process:

1. Student Health Services will provide all Augusta University staff involved with admissions clear directions for entering students to follow to allow them to comply with this policy.
2. All entering students will be sent directions for complying with this policy by admissions staff allowing sufficient time so they can be in compliance prior to registration.
3. As evidence of compliance with this policy, the entering student must provide Student Health Services with the appropriate required documentation to include the Augusta University Certificate of Immunization record, completed and signed by a public health official or private healthcare provider prior to the student's first enrollment at Augusta University.
4. Non-compliance with this policy may jeopardize a student's enrollment status. The decision to administratively dis-enroll a student for non-compliance with this policy will be made by the student's college of enrollment and the Registrar's Office.

Exceptions

The following list includes the only exceptions to compliance with this policy. Any exceptions must be granted jointly by the student's college of enrollment and the Registrar's Office.

1. If the student has a medical condition that prohibits compliance with this policy.
2. If the student is in the process of completing a specific vaccination series. The student is expected to follow the required time frames of completion associated with each requirement within the series.

3. A religious waiver can be granted with a statement of affirmation that the immunizations required by the BOR/Augusta University are in conflict with their religious beliefs. Students on the health sciences campus will not be granted a religious waiver if the curriculum involves physical presence at a clinical site.
4. A student who is enrolled in a distance learning program and is not enrolled in a college on the health sciences campus.

Appeals

Students who are dis-enrolled due to non-compliance under the provisions of this policy may appeal the decision to the President of Augusta University. The President's decision will be the final ruling on behalf of the university.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities each party has in connection with this immunization policy are:

- Enrolling students complete the appropriate Augusta University Certificate of Immunization and send to Student Health. Maintain compliance with all requirements and provide documentation of such compliance.
- Student Health Services audits immunization records when received and monitor the need for updates until graduation of student. Place and remove immunization-related registration holds as needed to keep students up-to-date with the required immunizations. Serve as point of contact for both students and colleges, review immunization records, monitor immunization status, and maintain immunization records.

The student's college of enrollment and the Registrar's Office will render decisions about enrollment status as it relates to compliance with this policy and granting exceptions to the policy.

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Appendices

University System of Georgia Board of Regents Immunization Policy Statement:
<http://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section4/C334>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/vpd-vac-basics.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm>

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/teen-schedule.htm>

Georgia Department of Human Resources:

<http://www.health.state.ga.us/programs/immunization>

American College Health Association:

<http://www.acha.org/Topics/vaccine.cfm>

RELATED POLICIES

Intentionally left blank.

APPROVED BY:

President, Augusta University and CEO, AU Health System Date: 05/30/2017