

# Augusta University

## Policy Library

### Immunizations Requirements for Students

**Policy Manager: Dean of Students**

#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

Consistent with University System of Georgia (USG) and Board of Regents (BOR) policies, all new Augusta University students are required to provide documentation of the minimum immunization requirements set forth by the BOR. These requirements can be found at <https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section4/C334>

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 and or program of enrollment. A list of these requirements can be found at <https://www.augusta.edu/shs/degree-programs.php>

The Immunization policy established by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents also requires that all students living in any Augusta University owned or operated residence halls must provide proof of meningitis immunization for meningococcal bacteria as described at: <https://www.augusta.edu/shs/immunizations.php>. Alternatively, students may also sign a waiver of liability, found at the following web address: <https://www.augusta.edu/shs/immunizationwaivers.php>

This policy is designed to protect all Augusta University students and their contacts from vaccine-preventable diseases, based on best practice clinical guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Georgia Department of Public Health, and the American College Health Association (ACHA).

The additional immunity requirements for allied health and health professional students are based on the standards for healthcare workers derived from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), CDC, and the ACHA for adult immunizations.

Support is provided to all Augusta University colleges and off-campus 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 to help protect the health and wellbeing of students, staff, and patients but is mandatory for accreditation purposes. These prevention efforts meet the individual health needs of students, improve and enhance overall “campus health,” aid in student retention and academic progression, and contribute to the overall educational experience of every student.

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**Office of Legal Affairs Use Only**

**Executive Sponsor: VP for Enrollment and Student Affairs**

**Next Review: 2/2024**

## **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), typically by vaccination.

**Titer-** Laboratory value (serologic) to verify if an immunization or natural infection results in sufficient the antibody levels that are deemed protective indicating that the body has mounted an adequate immune response and the individual is protected from acquiring that specific infectious disease.

## **PROCESS & PROCEDURES**

To document compliance with this policy, the entering student must provide Student Health Services with the appropriate required documentation to include Augusta University Certificate of Immunization record (specific to the students' college), completed and signed by a public health official or private healthcare provider prior to the student's first enrollment at Augusta University.

All entering students will be sent instructions for complying with this policy by the appropriate staff allowing students sufficient time to become compliant prior to registration for the upcoming semester.

Non-compliance with this policy may jeopardize a student's enrollment status, especially for students in professional health sciences programs where immunization compliance is required for patient or client safety. The decision to administratively remove a student for non-compliance with this policy will be made by the student's college of enrollment and processed by the Office of the Registrar.

Student Health Services can be reached by dialing, 706-721-3448, or by email at, [immunizations@augusta.edu](mailto:immunizations@augusta.edu)

## **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 may be granted with a statement of affirmation that the immunizations required by the BOR/Augusta University are in conflict with personal religious beliefs.
  - a) Students in health professional programs are not eligible to receive a religious waiver if the curriculum involves physical presence at a clinical site to protect the student, other students, clinical staff, faculty, and patients.
4. A student who is enrolled in only online classes and does not come to any Augusta University campus.

### **Appeals**

Students who are dis-enrolled due to non-compliance under the provisions of this policy may appeal the decision to the Office of the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Affairs. If the student is not satisfied with the appeal decision, the student may appeal to the Office of the President. The President's decision will be the final ruling on behalf of the university.

### **REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

University System of Georgia Board of Regents Immunization Policy Statement:

<https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section4/C334>

Augusta University Immunizations website: <https://www.augusta.edu/shs/degree-programs.php>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: General Information about vaccines:

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

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

Recommended vaccines for Children 7-18 years old: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/teen-schedule.htm>

University System of Georgia Immunization Policy: <https://www.usg.edu/policymanual/section4/C334>

Georgia Department of Public Health: <https://dph.georgia.gov>

Vaccine Information: <https://dph.georgia.gov/schoolvaccines>

American College of Health Association: Immunization Guidelines for College Students

[https://www.acha.org/documents/resources/guidelines/ACHA\\_Immunization\\_Recommendations\\_May2020.pdf](https://www.acha.org/documents/resources/guidelines/ACHA_Immunization_Recommendations_May2020.pdf)

### **RELATED POLICIES**

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**APPROVED BY:**

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Augusta University

Date: 2/1/2021

President, Augusta University

Date: 2/2/2021