

To: All Individuals Planning to Enroll as a Full Time Student
From: Ivan R. Davis, M.D., Director of Student Health Services
Re: Documentation of Immunization Requirements

URGENT!! READ CAREFULLY. FAILURE TO PROVIDE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION WILL DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN ENROLL AS A FULL TIME STUDENT.

The State of Tennessee requires students entering colleges, universities and technical institutions to have proof of specified immunizations. Most of the requirements for immunizations were satisfied when you were in elementary and/or secondary school. Two laws have been enacted in recent years requiring additional immunizations for students who wish to enroll as a full time student. It is highly possible that you do not meet those requirements.

- As of July 1, 1998, the state requires documentation of **two doses of Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) vaccine or documentation of immunity to these diseases.**
- As of July 1, 2011, the state requires documentation of **two doses of varicella (chicken pox) vaccine or documentation of immunity to chicken pox.**

If you are not presently enrolled at Tennessee State University as a full time student and you plan to enroll as a full time student, the following information applies to you:

- The information is provided to let you know what documents will satisfy the requirements.
- Information is provided as to who is exempt and what documents must be provided to get an exemption.

Who is required to be immunized?

New full time enrollees in higher education institutions (post secondary) in Tennessee with enrollments greater than 200 students must show documentation of immunity.

- New undergraduates enrolled in at least 12 semester hours, or equivalent.
- New graduate students enrolled in at least 9 semester hours, or equivalent.

Exempt: Full time distance learning students are exempted from immunization requirements.

What documentation is needed to show immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella?

Proof of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella may be provided by meeting one of the following 3 criteria:

1. Date of birth before 1957, **or**
2. Documentation of 2 doses of vaccine (MMR) against measles, mumps and rubella given at least 28 days apart, excluding doses given earlier than 4 days before the first birthday, **or**
3. Documentation of blood serum test (Titer Test) showing immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella. If one of the three is negative, 2 doses of vaccine must be documented.

[What documentation is needed to show immunity to varicella \(chicken pox\)?](#)

Proof of immunity to varicella (chicken pox) is required by meeting one of the following 4 criteria:

1. Date of birth before 1980, or
2. History of chicken pox illness diagnosed by a health care provider or verified by a physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant to whom the illness is described, or
3. Documentation of 2 doses of varicella vaccine given at least 28 days apart, excluding doses given earlier than 4 days before the first birthday, or
4. Documentation of blood serum test (Titer Test) showing immunity to varicella (chicken pox).

[Hepatitis B immunity \(only for health science students expected to have patient contact\) must be documented.](#)

Proof of immunity to Hepatitis B for students in health sciences prior to patient care duties may be documented in one of the following ways:

1. Documentation of 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, **or**
2. Blood test (serology-Titer Test) showing immunity to Hepatitis B virus (or infection).

[Valid Exemptions to Requirements:](#)

- **Medical:** Physician or health department indicates that certain vaccines are medically exempted because of risk of harm. Any vaccines not exempted remain required.
- **Religious:** Requires a signed, notarized statement by the student that vaccination conflicts with his or her religious tenets or practices.

THE FOLLOWING FORMS MUST BE FILLED OUT AND RETURNED TO THE HEALTH CENTER:

- Medical History Questionnaire
- Certificate of Immunization Form
- Tetanus-Diphtheria Immunizations
- Meningococcal Meningitis and Hepatitis B Immunization Health History Form

Documentation of immunizations can also be submitted on Certificates of Immunization forms that have been prepared by a health care provider or by a local or state Department of Health.

Carefully read the information, complete, and send all forms/documents to:

T.S.U. Student Health Services
3500 John A. Merritt Blvd.
P.O. Box 9528
Nashville, TN 37209-1561
Phone: (615) 963-5291 Fax: (615) 963-5084

PLEASE REMEMBER, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO REGISTER UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED AND RETURNED ALL FORMS.