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New York State Student Policy on Immunizations

Beginning August 1, 1990, students attending New York State colleges and universities will be required to show proof of immunity against measles, mumps and rubella. Persons born before January 1, 1957 will be exempt from this requirement. Proof of immunity to measles will be defined as two doses of measles vaccine on or after the first birthday and at least 30 days apart (preferably three months), physician documented history of disease, or serologic evidence of immunity. Proof of rubella immunity will mean one dose of rubella vaccine on or after the first birthday or serologic evidence of immunity. Proof of mumps immunity will mean one dose of mumps vaccine on or after the first birthday, a physician documented history of disease, or serologic evidence of immunity.

General Recommendations for measles immunization - Anyone born on or after January 1, 1957, who does not have a history of physician-diagnosed measles or serologic confirmation of measles immunity, should receive two doses of MMR vaccine for maximum protection. MMR vaccine is recommended for all measles vaccine doses to provide increased protection against all three vaccine-preventable diseases: measles, mumps and rubella.

New York State Public Health Law 2165 requires post-secondary students attending colleges and universities to demonstrate proof of immunity against measles, and mumps and rubella.

Who the law applies to:

The law applies to persons born on or after January 1, 1957. Full-time students are those enrolled for at least twelve semester hours per semester or the equivalent per quarter. Part-time students are those enrolled for at least six semester hours per semester or equivalent per quarter.

Requirements:

Proof of immunity consists of a certificate of immunization signed by a physician or health care provider which documents measles, mumps and rubella immunity. The certificate must specify the type of vaccine and the dates (month, day, year) of administration, or the date of disease diagnosis, if any, or the date of serologic testing and results, if any. A student health record from a previously attended school which properly documents the immunization history previously described is acceptable as proof of immunity.

Measles requirement:

- a. two doses of live measles vaccine administered after 1967. The first dose must have been received on or after the first birthday and the second dose received on or after 15 months of age and at least thirty days after the first dose. Combined measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR) is recommended for both doses; or
- b. physician diagnosis of disease; or
- c. serologic evidence of immunity.

Rubella requirement:

- a. one dose of live rubella vaccine received on or after the first birthday; or
- b. serologic evidence of immunity. Note: Clinical diagnosis of rubella disease is not acceptable as proof of immunity.

Mumps requirement:

- a. one dose of live mumps vaccine received on or after the first birthday; or
- b. physician diagnosis of disease; or
- c. serologic evidence of immunity.

Exemptions

- a. Persons may be exempt if a physician certifies in writing that the immunization(s) may be detrimental to their health.
- b. Persons who hold genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to immunization may be exempt after submitting a statement to that effect.

Enforcement

Documentation of immunity against measles, mumps and rubella is required for students for continued college or university attendance beyond 30 days (45 days for out-of state students) in New York State. Students who cannot afford immunizations may request them from their local public health department.

Meningococcal Vaccination Response Form

New York State Public Health Law 2167 requires that all college and university students, regardless of age, who are enrolled for at least six (6) semester hours or the equivalent per semester, must complete and return the Meningococcal Vaccination Response Form prior to your first semester.

Collection of Records

The Registrar's Office is responsible for the collection and maintenance of immunization records. The Registrar's Office will notify students who are not in compliance with PHL Section 2165 and Section 2167 and 10 NYCRR Subpart 66-2.1(b).

Records Retention

Immunization records are maintained a student's file in the Registrar's Office. All student records are considered confidential and maintained in a secure area with limited access.