



**University of Pittsburgh
Vaccinations and Immunizations Requirements
Policy CS 29**

Implementing Executive: Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor; and Senior Vice Chancellor for Business and Operations
Responsible Unit: Student Health Services; Department of Environmental Health & Safety
Category: Community Standards
Effective Date: February 28, 2024

I. Purpose

This Policy establishes the University of Pittsburgh's ("University") immunization requirements.

II. Scope

This Policy applies to all faculty, staff, research associates, postdoctoral fellows, and students, except as detailed below.

III. Policy

Vaccines are a safe and effective way to protect against infection and disease. Additionally, immunizations against certain diseases are needed to help protect members of the University community from becoming infected with those highly transmissible viruses and bacteria. Implementing the following requirements is an important tool for the University to safely carry out its academic mission, as well as protect its workforce.

The University requires every student (including graduate, professional and undergraduate) enrolled at the University, except those enrolled solely in online programs, to be fully vaccinated against the diseases identified in Appendix A, Section I, unless an exemption is granted, as provided below. The University also requires additional vaccinations against the diseases identified in Appendix A, Section II, as a prerequisite to live in University housing, unless an exemption is granted.

Additionally, any individuals engaging in a University programmed activity where exposure to human blood and/or other potentially infectious materials is probable or possible, must present evidence of vaccination as specified in Appendix B.

To be identified as fully vaccinated, an individual must provide proof that they have received all doses of the applicable vaccines as specified in the Appendices. Importantly, the University strongly encourages every faculty member, staff member, research associates, postdoctoral fellow, and student to remain up to date with the vaccinations appropriate to their position at the

University. In the event that the University determines that additional measures are necessary to control a virus or disease on its campuses, an individual's failure to disclose that they are up to date could impact that individual's access privileges. To be up to date on an immunization an individual needs to have received the number of doses prescribed by the CDC according to the schedule provided [here](#). As detailed in the CDC's guidance, what is up to date may be different for each person and could be informed by such factors as an individual's age, whether they are immunocompromised, and when they received their last vaccine dose.

A. Proof of Vaccination

1. Student Specific Vaccination Requirements

All full-time and part-time graduate, professional, and undergraduate students, except those enrolled solely in online programs, must have a record with the University demonstrating that they are fully immunized against the diseases identified in Appendix A, Section I, prior to enrolling in classes.

Students scheduled to live in University housing must also have a record with the University that demonstrates that they are fully vaccinated against the diseases identified in Appendix A, Section II, prior to moving into University housing.

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety, or other entity charged by the Chancellor, in consultation with Student Health Services, may impose additional vaccination requirements for students, if it determines that such protection is needed for the student population.

2. Position or Location Specific Vaccination Requirements

As described further in Appendix B, submission of proof of vaccination against additional diseases is required in order to be employed in certain positions or have access to certain locations or settings at the University. Accordingly, any faculty, staff, student, or other individual engaging in a University activity where exposure to human blood and/or other potentially infectious materials is probable or possible is subject to the applicable vaccination requirements provided in Appendix B. Individuals refusing or having a medical contraindication to the vaccine as determined by the office charged with employee health services may be prohibited from directly handling the relevant virus or bacterium, cultures, spore preparations, or infected animals at the University. The determination of all prohibited tasks will be made by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety, in consultation with the employee's supervisor and the office charged with employee health services, unless otherwise noted in Appendix B.

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety, or other entity charged by the Chancellor, in consultation with the office charged with employee health services, may impose additional vaccination requirements, if it determines that such protection is needed.

Finally, University Policy, CS 01, Bloodborne Pathogens, provides educational, prophylactic vaccination, and emergency response guidelines for individuals who may be exposed to human blood or other potentially infectious materials.

B. Exemptions

Students subject to this Policy can request an exemption from the vaccine requirements identified in Appendix A. The vaccines identified in Appendix B are required to perform a specific duty and exemptions are not permitted, unless otherwise specified in that Appendix.

Exemption requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and can only be requested for medical reasons, or based on an individual's religious beliefs or practices, or strong moral/ethical conviction. Individuals granted an exemption may be subject to additional mitigation measures.

- Further information about submitting a request for a medical exemption is available on myPitt under "Submit Proof of Vaccination/Exemptions."
- Further information about submitting a request for a religious exemption or strong moral/ethical conviction is available on myPitt under "Submit Proof of Vaccinations/Exemptions."

IV. Contact Information & Public Accessibility

This Policy is posted under Community Standards on the Office of Policy Development & Management's website and can be found at: <https://www.policy.pitt.edu>.

Students with specific questions related to this Policy can contact their campus' student health office. Employees with specific questions related to this Policy can contact the Department of Environmental Health & Safety.

V. Related Authorities

[EH&S Safety Manual](#)
[Bloodborne Pathogens, CS 01](#)

Appendix A: Student Vaccination and Immunization Requirements

- I. All incoming full-time and part-time graduate, professional, and undergraduate students, except those enrolled solely in online programs, must submit proof of immunization against the following diseases as specified below:

1. Chicken Pox (Varicella)

Two doses of varicella-containing vaccine at least 12 weeks apart if vaccinated between 1 and 12 years of age and at least 4 weeks apart if vaccinated at age 13 years or older. A history of varicella immunity proved by serological evidence also satisfies this requirement.

2. Measles (Rubeola)

All entering students born after 1956 must have two doses of live attenuated measles vaccine: the first dose administered at 12 months of age or older; the second dose administered at least one month after the initial dose. A history of measles immunity proved by serological evidence showing adequate antibody to measles also satisfies this requirement.

3. German Measles (Rubella)

One dose of live attenuated rubella vaccine administered at 12 months of age or older. A history of rubella immunity proved by serological evidence showing adequate antibody to rubella also satisfies this requirement.

4. Mumps

Two doses of live attenuated mumps vaccine with the first dose administered at 12 months of age or older; the second dose administered at least one month after the initial dose. A history of mumps immunity proved by serological evidence showing adequate antibody to mumps also satisfied this requirement.

5. MMR/MMRV Vaccination

In lieu of the individual vaccines for measles, mumps, and rubella, two doses of MMR (Measles, Mumps Rubella) vaccination at least 28 days apart after 12 months of age also satisfies this requirement.

- II. All full-time and part-time undergraduate and graduate/professional students, who are scheduled to live in University Housing, must submit proof of immunization against the following diseases as specified below:

1. Meningitis

An initial dose of Meningococcal Quadrivalent (A,C,Y,W-135) vaccine at age 11-15 with a booster dose at age 16; if initial dose was given after age 16, no booster dose is required.

Appendix B: Position or Program Specific Vaccination and Immunization Requirements

All individuals engaging in a University programmed activity where exposure to human blood and/or other potentially infectious materials is probable or possible, must present evidence of vaccination as specified below:

1. Anthrax

All individuals who fall within the High Risk Category, as defined in the Safety Manual, [Anthrax Protection Program](#), are required to undergo pre-exposure vaccination. This requirement shall be stated in respective job descriptions for University personnel. Vaccination shall be given in five 0.5 mL doses at 0 and 4 weeks, and 6, 12, and 18 months. After the primary course of vaccination, booster doses are given annually to maintain immunity.

2. Hepatitis B

Before engaging in a University programmed activity where exposure to human blood and/or Other Potentially Infectious Materials is probable or possible, each employee and each student working in the activity must present either evidence of Hepatitis B vaccination (HBV), or serologic evidence of a protective antibody titer against hepatitis B virus disease and undergo training to prevent or minimize exposure. Employees or students who want to forego such immunization must sign a [formal disclaimer statement](#).

3. Japanese Encephalitis

Vaccination for JEV (or physician documented evidence of prior infection) is required for all Pitt employees and students before handling JEV cultures or JEV infected animals. This requirement shall be stated in respective job descriptions for University personnel.

4. Measles

All individuals born after 1956, who directly contact or manipulate non-human primates or who utilize measles virus in research, must have two doses of live attenuated measles vaccine: the first dose administered at 12 months of age or older; the second dose administered at least one month after the initial dose.

Individuals refusing vaccination or having medical contraindication may be prohibited from handling non-human primates or measles virus. This determination is made by an ad hoc panel which includes the University Employee Health Medical Director, University Employee Health Nurse, the University Director of Environmental Health and Safety, Human Resources representation, the Principal Investigator of the involved research, Provost Office representation if faculty are involved, and the Director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Resources, if animals are involved.

5. Neisseria Meningitidis

Vaccination is required for individuals seeking to handle *N. meningitidis* or infected animals. If personnel will directly handle serogroup A, C, W, or Y strains and serogroup B strains of *N. meningitidis*, both vaccinations shall be required. This requirement shall be stated in respective

job descriptions for University personnel.

6. Rabies

All individuals who fall within the Continuous Risk Category as defined in the Safety Manual, [Rabies Protection Program](#), are required to undergo a primary course of vaccination with serologic levels of rabies antibodies monitored every six months. Vaccine is given on days 0, 7 and 21. Booster doses of vaccine are administered to maintain a serum titer corresponding to at least complete neutralization at a 1:5 serum dilution.

All individuals who fall within the Frequent Risk Category as defined in the Safety Manual, [Rabies Protection Program](#), are required to undergo a primary course of vaccination with serologic levels of rabies antibodies monitored every two years.

Individuals who fall within the Infrequent Risk Category as defined in the Safety Manual, [Rabies Protection Program](#), are offered rabies vaccination as the primary course of pre-exposure prophylaxis.

7. Vaccinia Virus

The recommendations for vaccinia immunization differ depending upon the strain of experimental virus and setting in which it will be used in the individual laboratory. Individuals engaging in activity where exposure may occur must consult with the Department of Environmental Health and Safety before engaging in that activity.

8. Yellow Fever

Vaccination for YFV (or physician documented evidence of prior infection) is required for all individuals before handling YFV cultures or YFV infected animals. This requirement shall be stated in respective job descriptions for University personnel.

9. Work with Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Viruses

Annual vaccination with the most current seasonal influenza vaccine is required for personnel handling cultures of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) or HPAI infected animals. This requirement shall be stated in respective job descriptions for University personnel.