

**1) Why are immunization records required?**

Louisiana law (Louisiana R.S. 17:170) requires immunization against measles, mumps, and rubella for all first time students born after 1956. Immunization against tetanus-diphtheria is required of all students regardless of age. In addition, all first time freshmen must furnish proof of immunization against meningitis beginning Fall 2006. These immunizations are also recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to the United States Public Health Service (ACIP); and the American College Health Association (ACHA).

In compliance with state law, OLOL College has adopted an immunization policy to protect the students, faculty, and staff from outbreaks of measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, and meningitis. The policy applies to all students if they are enrolling for the first time at OLOL College or if they are returning after an absence of one semester or more.

**2) What are the immunization requirements?**

Two (2) doses of measles vaccine; at least one (1) dose of rubella vaccine; at least one (1) dose of mumps vaccine; and a tetanus-diphtheria booster within the past ten (10) years; and for first time freshmen, a single (1) dose of meningococcal vaccine.

In most cases, student compliance will require a second dose of measles vaccine (preferably as MMR) and a booster dose of tetanus-diphtheria (Td, Adult Type), and for first time freshmen... a dose of meningococcal vaccine.

**3) Who do the immunization requirements apply to?**

All new and transfer students to OLOL College must comply with the immunization requirement as well as re-entering students who have been out of school for one semester or longer. MMR (measles, mumps & rubella) requirement applies only to students born after 1956. Immunization against tetanus-diphtheria is required of all students regardless of age. In addition, all first time freshmen must furnish proof of immunization against meningitis beginning Fall 2006. Students not meeting the OLOL College immunization requirement will be prohibited from registering for subsequent semesters.

**4) What are the requirements for measles vaccine?**

Two (2) doses of live vaccine given at any age, except that the vaccine must have been given on or after the first birthday, in 1968 or later, and without Immune Globulin. A second dose of measles vaccine must meet this same requirement, but should not have been given within 30 days of the first dose. A history of physician diagnosed measles is acceptable for establishing immunity, but requires documentation from the physician who performed the diagnosis. Serologic testing is acceptable evidence of immunity, but should not be routinely performed unless testing is appropriate or available. Practically speaking, immunization is preferable to serologic testing because of the relative cost and time. In all instances when vaccine

administration is considered, MMR (measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, live) is the product of choice for use in adults unless a specific contraindication is present. Proof of immunity to measles mumps and rubella is required for all new and transfer students born after 1956.

**5) What are the requirements for TD (tetanus-diphtheria)?**

A booster dose of vaccine given within the past ten (10) years. Students can be considered to have completed a primary series earlier in life. In all instances when vaccine administration is considered, tetanus-diphtheria toxoid (Td, Adult Type) is the product of choice for use in adults unless a specific contraindication is present.

**6) What are the requirements for Meningitis?**

All first time freshmen are required to have a single dose of meningococcal vaccine beginning Fall 2006. Meningitis vaccine is mandatory for Physician's Assistant and Clinical Laboratory students. For more information on the meningitis requirement...see "Meningitis FAQ's".

**7) What records are needed to show proof of immunizations?**

Shot records or reasonably authentic copies of records (such as those from a baby book or school health record) which indicates specific information such as your name, date of birth, and the dates of the shots you had, should be acceptable documentation of the immunizations you previously received. **HOWEVER**, a visit to your doctor or public health clinic will be needed to have your Proof of Compliance form signed and/or to interpret your old records in view of changes in health care standards since your early childhood.

Serologic testing is acceptable evidence of immunity, but should not be routinely performed unless testing is appropriate or available. Practically speaking, immunization is preferable to serologic testing because of the relative cost and time.

**8) Where can I obtain my immunization records?**

Your immunization (shot) record may be found in your family records, such as a baby book, or in a booklet that may have been written in by your doctor or public health clinic each time you received a vaccination. You may also want to check for records with your doctor or public health clinic. Please keep in mind that immunization records are maintained for a variable number of years, and then usually only by the medical provider who actually gave the vaccines to you. You may also want to check with previous schools you attended for your school health record.

**9) What if I can't find my immunization records?**

In most cases, student compliance will require a second dose of measles vaccine (preferably as MMR), a booster dose of tetanus-diphtheria (Td, Adult Type) and for first time freshmen.... a single (1) dose of meningococcal vaccine.

In cases where no records can be located, or especially when immunization in the past is doubtful, two doses of MMR separated by a minimum of 30 days, a booster dose of tetanus-diphtheria (Td, Adult type) and for first time freshmen...a single dose of meningococcal vaccine may be indicated

**10) Can I sign a waiver from the immunization requirement?**

You may claim exemption for medical, personal, or religious reasons. If you have a medical reason for not being immunized, you must submit evidence from your physician and the requirement will be waived. You may also claim exemption from the immunization requirement for personal or religious reasons. If you are not 18 years of age, a request for exemption must be signed by a parent or legal guardian. Persons who sign a waiver will be permitted to complete the registration process. If you claim exemption from the immunization requirement for medical, personal, or religious reasons, the College will require you to leave the campus and will exclude you from class in the event of an outbreak of measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, or diphtheria. You will not be permitted back on campus or in class until the outbreak is over or until you submit proof of adequate immunization.

**11) What will happen if the immunization requirement is not met?**

A “health hold” will be placed on your student account if the immunization requirement is not met by the end of your first semester of attendance. A “hold” on your student account prevents you from registering for classes, receiving grades, receiving transcripts, and receiving money/financial aid checks from the business office until the immunization requirement is met for the hold to be removed.

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