

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION STAF Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support		POLICY NUMBER STAF 7.03
POLICY TITLE Immunization Requirements (Measles MMR, Tuberculosis PPD and Meningitis)		
SCOPE OF POLICY USC Columbia		DATE OF REVISION December 13, 2019
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support		ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE Division of Student Affairs and Academic Support

PURPOSE

This policy addresses immunization requirements and recommendations for new and incoming students that will minimize the sources and transmission of infections, including adequate surveillance techniques.

DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG): Vaccine provides immunity or protection against tuberculosis (TB). The vaccine may be given to persons at high risk of developing TB.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): A Federal agency whose mission is to protect America from health, safety and security threats, both foreign and in the U.S. Whether diseases start at home or abroad, are chronic or acute, curable or preventable, human error or deliberate attack, CDC fights disease and supports communities and citizens to do the same.

Chest radiograph (CXR): Projection radiograph of the chest used to diagnose conditions affecting the chest, its contents, and nearby structures.

Conjugate meningococcal vaccine: Protects against four types of meningococcal bacteria (called types A, C, W, and Y).

Incubation period: The period between exposure to an infection and the appearance of the first symptoms.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR): A vaccine that is given to prevent measles, mumps, and rubella.

Measles: A highly contagious virus that starts with fever, runny nose, cough, red eyes, and sore throat, followed by a rash that spreads all over the body.

Measles outbreak: Due to the infectious nature of measles, one (1) confirmed case is considered an outbreak.

Medical exemption: A medical exemption is allowed when an individual has a medical condition that prevents them from receiving a vaccine.

Meningococcal Meningitis: A rare but serious bacterial infection that causes the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord to become inflamed.

Mumps: A viral infection that primarily affects saliva-producing (salivary) glands that are located near your ears.

Purified Protein Derivative (PPD): The *PPD* skin test is a method used to diagnose silent (latent) tuberculosis (TB) infection.

QuantiFERON Gold Test (QFT): A blood test that aids in the detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacteria which causes tuberculosis (TB).

Religious exemption: An exemption from immunization requirements based on religious beliefs and practices.

Rubeola: Also called 10-day *measles*, red *measles*, or *measles*, is a viral illness that results in a viral exanthema, which is a rash or skin eruption.

Rubella: Also known as German Measles or Three-day Measles, it is viral infection that causes a red rash on the body; it lasts for about three days once the rash appears.

Serum Titer: Blood tests that measure whether one is immune to a given disease(s). More specifically a quantitative serum titer is a titer with a numerical value indicating an individual's actual degree of immunity to a disease(s)

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC): A State entity charged with promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment in South Carolina.

Tuberculosis: A disease caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The bacteria usually attack the lungs, but they can also damage other parts of the body.

Vaccine-preventable illnesses: An infectious disease for which an effective preventive vaccine exists. If a person acquires a vaccine-preventable disease and dies from it, the death is considered a vaccine-preventable death.

Policy Statement

Vaccine preventable illnesses continue to occur at institutions of higher education in the United States and pose a significant threat to public health. The goal of Student Health Services and the university is to provide adequate protection against vaccine preventable diseases by requiring newly entering students to be vaccinated and/or screened for certain highly contagious diseases

and recommending other vaccinations.

Protecting the campus community against vaccine preventable illnesses can best be achieved through a mandatory pre-matriculation immunization requirement. The University of South Carolina (USC) immunization requirements are consistent with the recommendations of the American College Health Association and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Exceptions to the university's immunization requirements may be granted in the event of valid medical contraindications or for documented religious reasons. In the event of a measles emergency, exempted students will be excluded from campus activities until such time as is specified by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC).

Students under the age of 21 must provide proof of receipt of a conjugate meningococcal vaccine. Students born in 1957 or later must prove immunity to measles, rubella and mumps. The only exceptions are for documented medical or religious exemptions. International students may be required to complete a screening for tuberculosis.

Compliance with all immunization, post screening tests, treatment regimens, and monitoring is mandatory. Students not fulfilling the immunization requirements, with exceptions for valid medical contraindications or documented religious reasons, will not be permitted to register for classes. Vaccines are offered at the Immunization Clinic at the Center for Health and Well-Being and may be administered for all incoming students and faculty and staff on a fee-for-service basis.

PROCEDURES

A. Documentation pertaining to meningococcal meningitis vaccine.

1. **Proof of vaccine receipt:** Prior to attending class at USC, proof of receipt of a conjugate meningococcal vaccine (e.g. Menactra or Menveo) is required for all incoming students under the age of 21 and who have not received the conjugate vaccine within the past five (5) years. If it has been between two and five (2-5) years since receiving the Menomune vaccine, the student should receive the Menactra or Menveo vaccine. If it has been more than five years since receiving any meningitis vaccine, it is required to get the Menactra or Menveo vaccine.
2. **Waiver form:** A handout from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) concerning Meningococcal Disease will be provided and, after reading the risks and benefits of vaccine and hazards of bacterial meningitis, a student may sign a [Meningitis Vaccine Declination Waiver form](#) declining the vaccination. If the student is under the age of 18, a parent or legal guardian must also sign the waiver.

3. Availability of vaccine from Student Health Services: Based on the availability of the vaccine from the manufacturer, Student Health Services will offer the conjugate meningococcal vaccine during the summer orientation and fall registration.

B. Documentation pertaining to measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

1. Proof of vaccine receipt: Prior to attending class at USC, students born before 1957 must show proof of immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella.
 - a. Proof of immunity for MMR requires the following:
 - i. Two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) are required for students born in 1957 or later (dose 1-given at age 12 months or later and dose 2-given at least one month after first dose.
 - b. Students born before 1957 are exempt from this requirement.
 - c. A positive serum titer (blood antibody) may also provide evidence of immunity.
2. MMR exemptions for distance learning students: Students enrolled in distributed learning courses may submit the [Distance Learner Immunization Exemption form](#) each semester of attendance to request an MMR immunization exemption. Proof of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella must be submitted prior to attending on-campus courses in any subsequent semesters.

C. Documentation pertaining to Tuberculosis Screening Questionnaire and Risk Assessment

1. Proof of tuberculosis screening: All new and incoming students must complete the SHS [Tuberculosis \(TB\) Screening Questionnaire](#) located within the SHS Immunization Record Form. If any risk is noted on the TB screening questionnaire, the student must complete the Tuberculosis Risk Assessment located within the SHS Immunization Record Form which will direct them for further TB testing.
2. Purified Protein Derivative Testing
 - a. Positive PPD test: Students who report to campus with documentation of a positive purified protein derivative (PPD) test or who test positive at the Center for Health and Well-Being will be evaluated for further testing and possible medical intervention. A chest radiograph is required for positive PPDs.
 - b. Recommended PPD testing following travel: A PPD test for possible tuberculosis exposure is recommended for domestic students who have traveled to areas where tuberculosis is widespread. Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website for an up-to-date list at www.cdc.gov.

D. Exemptions to Immunization

1. Medical exemptions

- a. Medical exemptions must be signed by the individual's physician indicating that they have a condition in which the vaccine is medically contraindicated.
- b. Exclusion from activities in the event of outbreak: In the event of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases, for their own protection and others, individuals with medical exemptions to immunizations will be excluded from property owned maintained by the university, including attending classes or from other university-sponsored events on campus. This exclusion from class and on-campus activities will last until the incubation period (21 days) from the last identified case of the communicable disease has passed.

2. Religious exemptions

- a. Exemption to immunization may be granted based on individuals' religious beliefs. For purposes of this policy, "religious beliefs" include those that are theistic in nature, as well as non-theistic moral or ethical beliefs as to what is right and wrong which are sincerely held with the strength of traditional religious views. Personal preferences do not constitute religious beliefs.
 - b. Documentation required: Religious exemptions must be documented on the [University's Religious Exemption form](#); this form must be notarized. The individual hereby attests that, based on their religious beliefs, administration of an immunizing agent(s) conflicts with their personal religious beliefs.
 - c. Exclusion from activities in the event of outbreak: In the event of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases, for their own protection and others, individuals with religious exemptions to immunizations will be excluded from property owned or maintained by the university, including attending classes or from other university-sponsored events on campus. This exclusion from class and on-campus activities will last until the incubation period (21 days) from the last identified case of the communicable disease has passed.
3. Quarantine due to measles outbreak: Individuals with either medical or religious exemptions to immunizations may, in the event of an outbreak of measles on campus, be excluded from property owned or maintained by the university, including attending classes or from other university-sponsored events. Residential students with medical or religious exemptions to immunizations, may, in the event of an outbreak of measles on campus, be quarantined to their residence halls until the measles outbreak has cleared. This exclusion from university property or residential quarantine will last until the measles incubation period has ended, which is 21 days from the last identified case of the communicable disease has passed; the 21-day incubation period starts over with each identified case.

E. Additional Requirements for International Students

1. International students who arrived within the previous five (5) years where tuberculosis is endemic (visit www.cdc.gov) or any additional countries designated by the medical director of Student Health Services must be screened for tuberculosis even if the student had prior testing/screening for tuberculosis prior to their arrival in the United States.
2. TB screening may be conducted prior to the arrival of the international student from countries that are not endemic for tuberculosis. Information should be submitted to the SHS Immunization Office using the University Immunization Form. Students submitting properly completed forms with negative screening tests (negative PPD or QuantiFERON Gold Test) will be cleared for registration. The Medical Director may, however, require additional testing based on the screening results from other countries.
3. Students who send in a record of a positive PPD and a negative chest x-ray will be asked to confirm the positive result with a QFT blood test. If the QFT is positive, a referral will be made to the Richland County Health Department (RCHD) for evaluation and possible treatment. If the student refuses the QFT, a referral will be made to RCHD for evaluation, where the PPD and possibly the CXR will be repeated followed by an evaluation.
4. International students who report to campus without TB screening or who have submitted improper clearance forms will be required to have a QFT drawn at the student's expense. Students who test positive for TB on the screening examination will be referred for detailed examination.
5. International and English Program for Internationals (EPI) students and other designated students arriving on campus without a completed tuberculosis screening form or with a completed screen that indicates a need for tuberculosis testing will be directed to the Student Health Services for evaluation.
6. Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccination does not preclude testing of a member of a high-risk group. Evidence of BCG is not acceptable to meet the tuberculosis screening requirement.

F. Recommended Vaccinations for all Students

1. In addition to the before mentioned requirements, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention along with the Student Health Services recommends certain immunizations to the college population. These vaccines include:
 - a. Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) is highly recommended for all males and females between the ages of 11-26
 - b. Hepatitis B
 - c. Varicella

d. Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis

e. Influenza

G. Federal/State authority during outbreak

1. In the event of disease-related outbreak, SC DHEC (or the CDC in extreme cases) has the authority to direct campus administrators and community members on appropriate actions based on the situation, including the ability to quarantine and/or exclude members of the community until the threat is over.

Questions should be directed to the Center for Health and Well-Being Immunization Clinic, 803-777-9511.

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
July 31, 2019	Policy updated to new format and changes made to reflect current practice and standards.
December 13, 2019	Portion of this policy pertaining to faculty and staff has been placed into the new HR 1.68 policy