

Immunization/Vaccination Policy

The Center for Student Wellbeing is committed to taking steps to protect the physical, mental and emotional health of our entire campus community. One element of that commitment is ensuring compliance with New York Public Health Law requiring student proof of immunizations.

New York State Public Health Requirements

Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)

New York Public Health Law (PHL) Section 2165 requires students attending post-secondary institutions who were born on or after January 1, 1957 and registered for 6 or more credit hours to demonstrate proof of immunity against measles, mumps, and rubella. Those born before 1957 do not need to submit proof of immunization.

A certificate of immunization (required to provide proof of immunity) includes documents such as a certificate from a health care provider, immunization registry record, cumulative health record from a previous school, migrant health record, immunization transfer record, military immunization record, immunization portion of a passport or an immunization record card signed by a health care provider. An immunization record may also show health care provider diagnosis of disease or laboratory evidence of immunity. Immunization records must be signed or stamped by a health care provider.

MEASLES (Proof of immunity for measles must be demonstrated by meeting **one** of the following three requirements.)

- (a) Two doses of live measles vaccine. The first dose must have been received no more than 4 days prior to the first birthday and the second dose received at least 28 days after the first dose, OR
- (b) Physician diagnosis of disease, OR
- (c) Serologic evidence of immunity.

MUMPS (Proof of immunity for mumps must be demonstrated by meeting one of the following three requirements.)

- (a) One dose of live mumps vaccine received no more than 4 days prior to the first birthday, OR
- (b) Physician diagnosis of disease, OR
- (c) Serologic evidence of immunity.

RUBELLA (Proof of immunity for rubella must be demonstrated by meeting one of the following two requirements.)

- (a) One dose of live rubella vaccine received no more than 4 days prior to the first birthday, OR
- (b) Serologic evidence of immunity,
- (c) Please note: Clinical diagnosis of rubella disease is **not** acceptable as proof of immunity.

Meningococcal Disease

New York State Public Health Law (PHL) Section 2167 requires post-secondary institutions to distribute information about meningococcal disease and immunization to the students, or parents or guardians of students under the age of 18, accompanied by a response form. St. Bonaventure University is required

to maintain appropriate documentation for each student. Acceptable documentation includes any of the following:

- A vaccine record indicating at least 1 dose of meningococcal ACWY vaccine within the last 5 years or a complete 2- or 3-dose series of MenB without a response form; or
- A signed response form indicating that the student will obtain meningococcal vaccine within 30 days; or
- A signed response form indicating that the student will not obtain immunization against meningococcal disease.

NOTE: If the student has not received the meningococcal vaccine within the past 5 years, then they must submit the signed response form. Students who met the requirements for PHL 2167 in a semester/trimester prior to Fall 2018 do not need to resubmit their vaccine record or a response form.

Eligible Exemptions

Students may request an accommodation exempting them from some or all immunization/vaccination requirements under this policy by submitting a Religious or Medical Exemption Request for Immunization/Vaccination Requirement Form. Religious or Medical Exemption Requests must be submitted by July 15 for the fall semester and by December 1 for the spring semester. The University will evaluate requests in accordance with guidance from public health authorities, University policy and applicable law.

Medical exemptions require a statement from a qualified health care practitioner (licensed physician or nurse practitioner, or licensed midwife caring for a pregnant student) stating that the student has a health condition which is a valid contraindication to receiving a specific vaccine and must specify those immunizations which may be detrimental and the length of time they may be detrimental.

Religious exemptions require proof that the student holds genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of immunization. General philosophical, moral, political, scientific, or sociological objections to immunizations or vaccinations will not justify an exemption from a requirement.

If an exemption is granted, it may include lawful limitations or conditions on the exempted individual's participation in particular activities or programs on campus in circumstances where the failure to be immunized/vaccinated would reasonably be expected to (a) prevent the individual from fulfilling the essential functions and/or curricular requirements of his/her/their academic program, (b) cause the University undue hardship, (c) protect the individual from exposure or (d) pose a threat to the health and safety of others.

Medical and Religious Exemptions are valid for one year and must be submitted annually for review in advance of the upcoming academic year. Students requesting an exemption will be notified in writing of the outcome of their request within 10 business days of the University receiving a completed request form. At any time, the University reserves the right to require further documentation.

Documentation of Requirements

Students must submit all required immunization records and health forms to the St. Bonaventure University Center for Student Wellbeing. Lack of any required document(s) will result in a hold placed on a student's account.

If NYS mandated immunization records or St. Bonaventure University mandated health forms and requirements are not received within 30 days after the start of classes, non-compliant students will be removed from class and residential facilities.

Process for Following up on Students in Process

- Student vaccine records are reviewed in the electronic health record (EHR) system. If compliance is determined, then the record is marked verified by a Health Services staff member.
- Students deemed non-compliant or “in process” of being immunized will be sent a secure message to their patient portal with instructions to follow up with health services, and their record will indicate non-compliant and unverified in the EHR.
- Health services will run a report in the EHR to determine non-compliant students and follow up with the student by secure message or phone.
- Follow up will occur until 30 days post student’s first day of attending class on campus. At which point, students who are not in compliance will be sent a final notice by the Center’s administrator. The final notice will inform the student that they are prohibited from attending classes in person and residing on campus.

For the purpose of this policy, non-compliance is defined as the following:

- student has not submitted an immunization record verified by health services staff, or
- other acceptable proof of immunity (diagnosis of disease or serological evidence of immunity to the diseases specified in the NYCRR 66-22) verified by health services staff, or
- received a religious or medical exemption approved by the university

St. Bonaventure University reserves the right to change the vaccination policy at any time in accordance with guidance or recommendation from the federal, state, or local Department of Health.