



MOLLOY UNIVERSITY IMMUNIZATION POLICY

Responsible VP: Student
Affairs
Responsible Office:
Health Services
Approved By: Student
Affairs
Effective Date:
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1. Policy Summary

In compliance with New York State Public Health Laws § 2165 and § 2167, 10 N.Y.C.C.R. Subpart 66-2, and to promote the overall health, safety and welfare of the University community, Molloy requires all students enrolled for six (6) or more semester hours to provide proof of immunization to measles, mumps, and rubella as well as respond to the meningitis information form.

2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all registered students regardless of credit hours, matriculation status or course delivery method.

3. Policy

Requirements for Proof of Immunity

A. Measles. One of the following is required:

1. The student must demonstrate receipt of two (2) doses of live measles vaccine. The first does must have been received no more than four (4) days prior to the student's first birthday and the second at least twenty-eight (28) days after the first dose; **OR**
2. The student must submit serological proof of immunity to measles. This means the demonstration of measles antibodies through a blood test performed by an approval medical laboratory; **OR**
3. If a student is unable to access their immunization record from a health care provider or previous school, documentation that proves the student attended primary or secondary school in the United States after 1980 will be sufficient

proof that the student received one dose of live measles vaccine. If this option is used, the second dose of measles vaccine must have been administered within one (1) year of attendance at the University.

B. Mumps. One of the following is required:

1. The student must submit proof of one dose of live mumps vaccine given no more than four (4) days prior to the student's first birthday; **OR**
2. The student must submit serological proof of immunity to mumps. This means the demonstration of mumps antibodies through a blood test performed by an approved medical laboratory; **OR**
3. The student must submit a statement from the diagnosing physician that the student has had mumps disease

C. Rubella. One of the following is required:

1. The student must submit proof of one dose of live rubella vaccine given no more than four (4) days prior to the student's first birthday; **OR**
2. The student must submit serological proof of immunity to rubella. This means the demonstration of rubella antibodies through a blood test performed by an approved medical laboratory (since rubella rashes resemble rashes of other diseases, it is impossible to diagnose reliably on clinical grounds alone)

D. Meningococcal Disease. The University must distribute information about meningococcal disease and immunization to its students, or parents/guardians of students under the age of eighteen (18), accompanied by a response form. Information on the Meningococcal Disease and immunization can be found on the Molloy University website (<https://www.molloy.edu/molloy-life/student-health-and-wellness/student-health-services/student-health-forms-Student Health Forms>) or the Molloy Health Portal at <https://molloy.studenthealthportal.com> under RELATED LINKS. Acceptable documentation includes any of the following:

1. A vaccine record indicating at least one (1) dose of meningococcal ACWY vaccine within the last five (5) years or a complete 2- or 3-dose series of MenB without a response form (*Students living on-campus must have proof of Meningitis vaccination*); **OR**
2. A signed response form with a vaccine record (if a student submits a response form selecting this option, a vaccine record must be attached); **OR**
3. A signed response form indicating the student will obtain meningococcal vaccine within thirty (30) days; **OR**

4. A signed response form indicating that the student will not obtain immunization against meningococcal disease.

If the student has not received meningococcal vaccine within the past five (5) years, then they must submit the response form.

Students who have submitted their meningococcal vaccine documentation in a semester prior to Spring 2017 are “grandfathered in” and do not need to resubmit their vaccine record or response form.

Exemptions from Immunization Requirements

A. Military Exemption

1. The student must submit proof of honorable discharge from the armed services within ten (10) years from the date of application to the University. The proof of honorable discharge shall qualify as a certificate enabling a student to attend the University pending actual receipt of immunization records from the armed services

B. Medical Exemption

1. If a licensed physician or nurse practitioner, or licensed midwife caring for a pregnant student certifies in writing that the student has a health condition which is a valid contraindication to receiving a specific vaccine, then a permanent or temporary (for resolvable conditions such as pregnancy) exemption may be granted. This statement must specify those immunizations which may be detrimental and the length of time they may be detrimental. The University shall review records of temporarily exempted persons periodically to see if contraindications still exist.
2. In the event of an outbreak, the University shall take necessary precautions to protect medically exempt individuals from exposure. This may include exclusion from classes or campus.

C. Religious Exemption.

1. A student may be exempt from vaccination if, in the sole opinion of the University, that student or student’s parent(s)/guardian(s) of those less than eighteen (18) years old, holds genuine and sincere religious beliefs which are contrary to the practice of immunization.
2. The request for a religious exemption must be made in writing. A student requesting a religious exemption may be required to submit additional information including, but not limited to:
 - i. The length of time you have adhered to the principles and practice of your faith;

- ii. The impact your religious beliefs have on other medically related matters, including whether you are opposed to all immunizations, and if not, the religious basis that prohibits particular immunizations;
- iii. Clarification regarding whether all (or most) practitioners of this faith also adhere to the practice of refusing immunizations.
- iv. A statement of how the student or parent (if student is under 18 years of age) feels accepting immunization would compromise their beliefs
- v. A letter from a qualified leader of the religious group which address/substantiates this information

You will be notified of the outcome of this request after Molloy Health Services (“MHS”) has reviewed all pertinent information.

- 3. In the event of an outbreak, the University shall take necessary precautions to protect religious exempt individuals from exposure. This may include exclusion from classes or campus.

D. Date of Birth.

- 1. If a student is born prior to January 1, 1957, that student does not need to provide proof of immunization to measles, mumps, and rubella because they are considered to have developed immunity.
- 2. A student qualifying for this exemption must still submit the required meningococcal disease documentation.

E. Course Delivery Method

- 1. Students registered for online-only courses are exempt from vaccination requirements as long as they will not be attending any classes on Molloy’s campus or in any off-campus group setting with other students.
- 2. Students residing on Molloy’s campus are not eligible for this exemption.

Proof of Compliance/Exemption

The certificate of immunization shall be prepared by a physician, physician assistant or nurse practitioner, and shall specify the vaccines and gives the dates of administration. It may also show physician-verified history of disease, laboratory evidence of immunity or medical exemption. This includes documents such as a certificate from a physician, a copy of the immunization portion of the cumulative health record from a prior school, a migrant health record, a union health record, a community plan record, a signed immunization transfer card, a military dependent’s “shot” record, the immunization portion of a passport, an immunization card signed by a physician, physician’s assistant or nurse practitioner, or an immunization registry record.

Procedures

The Office of Admissions will provide instructions to all new students on submitting the required immunization documentation to MHS prior to or at the time of registration. MHS will be responsible for maintaining a list of students who have failed to submit all such documentation. MHS will track students in the process of obtaining their immunization records in the Molloy Health Portal (www.molloy.studenthealthportal.com) Students who have not submitted all required immunization documentation will receive notifications of noncompliance to their university email and/or through secure messaging in the Molloy Health Portal. Such notifications will be sent three (3) weeks, two (2) weeks, and one (1) week prior to the first day of classes. Students who remain noncompliant will not be able to attend classes at Molloy University.

MHS will also report any excluded non-compliant students to the Vice President for Student Affairs and the Dean of Students.

Once records are received and the student is deemed compliant, a secure message in the Molloy Health Portal will be provided to the student.

Outbreak Control Strategies

A. Measles

1. Any individual with a fever and generalized rash will be suspected as having measles and will be reported immediately to the state health department by MHS. The state health department will determine if outbreak procedures should be initiated before serological results are available. While the state health department is confirming the diagnosis with serological studies, MHS will review the immunization records and identify all students and employees lacking two doses of measles vaccine or documentation of physician-diagnosed disease or serological immunity (“susceptibles”).
2. If the suspected case is confirmed, all susceptible students and employees will be immunized as soon as possible. Anyone born before 1957 can generally be considered immune but will be offered vaccine if they do not remember having measles. Any student or employee who remains susceptible will be excluded from campus until the state health department deems it is safe to return.

B. Mumps

1. Any individual with acute swelling of the parotid or other salivary glands lasting two or more days will be suspected of having mumps unless ruled out by a physician. The state health department will be notified by MHS to evaluate the case and to determine if outbreak procedures should be initiated before serological results are available. While the state health department is confirming the diagnosis with serological studies, MHS will review immunization records and identify susceptibles.

2. If the suspected case is confirmed, all susceptible students and employees will be immunized as soon as possible. Anyone born before 1957 can generally be considered immune but will be offered the vaccine. Any student or employee who remains susceptible will be excluded from campus until the state health department deems it is safe to return.

C. Rubella

1. Any individual with a rash accompanied by a mild fever and arthralgia/arthritis (aching muscles and joints) or lymphadenopathy (swollen lymph nodes) will be suspected of having rubella until ruled out by serologic testing. MHS will notify the state health department to determine if control measures should be initiated before serological confirmation. While awaiting serological confirmation, MHS will review records to identify susceptibles.
2. There is no “cut-off” year to determine immunity from natural disease. All students and employees, regardless of age, will be requested to demonstrate immunity. All female students and employees of childbearing age (generally considered to be 15-44 years of age) will be notified that if they are pregnant or may be pregnant, they should contact their health provider to determine their rubella immunity status through serologic testing.
3. If the suspected case is confirmed, all susceptible students and employees will be immunized as soon as possible. Any student or employee who remains susceptible will be excluded from campus until the state health department deems it is safe to return.

D. Meningococcal Disease

1. Common symptoms of meningococcal disease include a sudden fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea and vomiting, red-purple skin rash, weakness and feeling very ill, and eye sensitivity to light. If an individual is suspected of having meningococcal disease, MHS will notify the state health department to determine if control measures should be initiated before serological confirmation. While awaiting serological confirmation, MHS will review records to identify susceptibles.
2. If the suspected case is confirmed, all susceptible students and employees will be immunized as soon as possible. Any student or employee who remains susceptible will be excluded from campus until the state health department deems it is safe to return.

Confidentiality and Retention of Immunization Records

Student immunization records may contain protected health information. Therefore, immunization records are kept confidential.

The University keeps an electronic copy students' immunization record in the secure Molloy Health Portal (Pyramed). Any hard copy records received are destroyed after MHS has reviewed them, deemed them legitimate and conducted a quality review to verify the electronic record has been made.

4. Definitions

- A. Attendance – the student's physical presence on campus (i.e., classes, dorm residence and other curricular and extra-curricular activities).
- B. Exclusion – process whereby noncompliant students are not permitted continued attendance at the University.
- C. Immunization – an adequate dose or doses of an immunizing agent which meets the standard approved by the United States public health service for such biological products, and which is approved by the state department of health under such conditions as may be specified by the public health council.
- D. Student – any person registered for one or more University courses