Princeton University

Required Immunizations

**Hepatitis B**
*(Immunizations that do not follow this schedule must include a lab report showing positive immunity.)*

Three doses are required for all matriculating students or a blood test showing immunity. All students will be required to have all three doses of the hepatitis B vaccine as outlined in the following schedule. The second dose should be at least 28 days after the first dose and the third dose at least 4 to 6 months after first dose and at least 2 months after the second dose. If a student received their Hepatitis B vaccine between ages 11 and 15, we do accept a 2 dose series 4 – 6 months apart. If there is not time to complete a series before matriculation, an appointment may be made at University Health Services when the next dose of vaccine is due. Registration holds are applied if the series is delayed in completion.

*Full discussion on Hepatitis B vaccine for medical providers:*
The vaccine is usually administered as a three-dose series on a 0-, 1-, and 6-month schedule. The second dose should be given 1 month after the first dose; the third dose should be given at least 2 months after the second dose and at least 4 months after the first dose. Alternatively, the vaccine produced by GlaxoSmithKline is also approved for administration on a four-dose schedule at 0, 1, 2, and 12 months. There is also a two-dose schedule for a vaccine produced by Merck & Co., Inc., which has been licensed for children and adolescents 11-15 years of age. Using the two-dose schedule, the adult dose of Recombivax-HB is administered, with the second dose given 4-6 months after the first dose. Clinicians may choose to use an accelerated schedule for Twinrix (i.e., doses at days 0, 7, and 21). The FDA has approved the accelerated schedule for Twinrix, but not for the monovalent Hepatitis B vaccine. Persons who receive a vaccination on an accelerated schedule should also receive a booster dose at 1 year after the start of the series to promote long-term immunity.

**Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)**
*(Immunizations that do not follow this schedule must include a lab report showing positive immunity.)*

Two doses of MMR are required. Dose one of MMR must be administered after the first birthday, and the second given a minimum of four weeks after the first dose. Alternatively, a blood test within the last year showing immunity will be accepted. If there is not time to complete a series before matriculation, an appointment may be made at University Health Services when the next dose of vaccine is due.

**Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap)**

A single Tdap immunization is required, ideally between 11 and 18 years of age for individuals who have completed the recommended childhood series of vaccines for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (DTP/DTaP). Additionally, a single Tdap vaccine is recommended for adults aged 19 through 64 years, and may be achieved by substituting a single 5-10 year tetanus (tD) booster vaccine with Tdap.

**Meningococcal Vaccine**

Meningococcal vaccine (covering serogroups A,C,Y and W-135) is required for all incoming undergraduate and graduate students living in campus housing – we accept Menactra, Menomune or Menevo. If the initial dose was administered before the 16th birthday, a booster dose should be administered after the 16th birthday. The minimum interval between doses of meningococcal conjugate vaccine is 8 weeks.
Tuberculosis Testing
A PPD or Quantiferon Gold test is required for higher risk students (definition follows). A new or past positive test must have a chest x-ray within the last year.
A tuberculin (TB) test is required if you have a medical condition that weakens the immune system, have symptoms of TB (fever, night sweats, cough, and weight loss), have spent time with someone who has TB disease, use illegal drugs, have lived or worked where TB disease is more common (homeless shelters, prison or jails, or some nursing homes), or have spent 3 or more months in a country where TB disease is common (countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Russia).

Highly Recommended Immunizations
Meningitis B Vaccine
Due to the recent cases of Meningitis B at another local institution and the resolved outbreak of Meningitis B on our campus, Princeton University highly recommends that all incoming students be vaccinated for Meningitis B. There are two vaccines — Bexsero, a two dose vaccine by Novartis, and Trumenba, a three part vaccine by Pfizer. They are not interchangeable — so be sure to indicate which vaccine you are receiving when you send in the record.

Recommended Immunizations
The following vaccines are not required for matriculation. However, these vaccines are recommended for certain people as listed below. All of these vaccines are available at Student Health Services. Please see page one for the required immunizations list. In addition, many of our students travel as part of their studies. Please provide a copy of all Travel Immunizations.

Hepatitis A
Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for those who travel or work anywhere except the U.S., Western Europe, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and Japan; have chronic liver disease, hepatitis B or C; illegal drug users; men who have sex with men; have clotting-factor disorders; work with hepatitis A virus in experimental lab settings (not routine medical laboratories); and food handlers when health authorities or private employers determine vaccination to be cost effective. This vaccine is also recommended for anyone wishing to obtain immunity to hepatitis A.

Pneumococcal (Prevnar and Pneumococcal Polysaccharide)
Discuss the need for this vaccine with your physician if you have a disease or condition that lowers the body’s resistance to infection, such as: Hodgkin’s disease, lymphoma or leukemia, kidney failure, multiple myeloma, nephritic syndrome, HIV infection or AIDS, damaged spleen or no spleen, organ transplant, long term steroids, certain cancer drugs, radiation therapy, smokers and asthmatics.

Varicella (Chicken Pox)
Two doses of chicken pox vaccine are recommended at least one month apart or Positive immune titer verifying immunity or History of disease with an approximate date.
Exemptions from requirements
Students may be exempted from the immunization requirements if there is a valid medical contraindication or if religious belief prohibits immunizations. A signed statement indicating specific medical contraindication from a Medical Doctor, Osteopath, Nurse Practitioner or a Physician’s Assistant is required for medical exemption. Students with religious beliefs that prohibit them from immunization must submit a signed Declaration of Religious Objection form. This form may be requested by contacting University Health Services. Students are still required to complete other matriculation requirements including health history.