

Required Immunizations

Registration holds and or fines are applied for students who are not compliant with immunization requirements

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 16 weeks after first dose and at least 8 weeks after the second dose. If there is no time to complete a series before matriculation, an appointment may be made at University Health Services when the next dose of vaccine is due.

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. We accept alternative schedules as delineated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2018/infectious-diseases-related-to-travel/hepatitis-b>. In order to accept alternative schedules, documentation of the type, manufacturer, and dosage of the vaccine used has to be documented legibly at the immunization record.

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 for all three components of the vaccine 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 –Adult type (Tdap)

A single Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid, reduced acellular pertussis) immunization is required for individuals who have completed the recommended childhood series of vaccines for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (DTP/DTaP). Tdap vaccine may not be available in many countries outside the United States of America so check with your healthcare provider. Tdap appears with the following trade names: Adacel, Boostrix, Repevax. We accept only an adult pertussis booster, given after the 10th birthday and then every 10 years routinely. If you are unable to obtain this vaccine because it is unavailable to you, please notify the Immunization Team by emailing them at myuhs@princeton.edu.

Please note: Tdap vaccine, emphasis on “P” for Pertussis, is a required immunization and you will not be considered compliant, regardless of whether you have recently received a Td booster or if it was given a week before your 10th birthday.

Meningococcal Vaccine

One dose of Meningococcal vaccine (covering serogroups A,C,Y and W-135) is required after the 16th birthday and within the last 5 years for all undergraduate students and all graduate students living in dormitory campus housing (Graduate student housing is defined as New Graduate College, Old Graduate College, and the Annexes: 11 Dickinson, 15 Dickinson, 16 Dickinson, 24 Dickinson, 35 University Place, 45 University Place, 31 Edwards). In addition, resident graduate students living in residential colleges are subject to the same requirement. We accept Menactra, Menomune, Menveo, MenQuadfi or Nimenrix.

Regardless of living situation, any student under the age of 30 is encouraged to receive vaccination against [meningococcal disease](#) (.pdf). [See ACIP recommendations](#).

Tuberculosis Testing

A Tuberculin Skin test (TST) or Quantiferon Gold test is required for students who are at higher-risk, meaning they:

- have been in physical contact with someone who has TB disease
- have lived or worked somewhere TB disease is more common (e.g. homeless shelters, prison, jails, or some nursing homes)
- have spent three or more months in a [country where TB disease is common](#) (.docx)
- use illegal drugs
- have symptoms of TB (fever, night sweats, cough, weight loss)

A new or past positive test must be accompanied by a chest x-ray report within the last year. Requirement for TB testing will be determined upon upload of required Immunizations and completion of the *Health History form* on [MyUHS](#).

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 University Health Services (excluding the COVID-19 booster, which can be obtained at local pharmacies).

Meningitis B Vaccine

In 2014 at Princeton University and in 2016 at another local institution, there were outbreaks of Meningitis B. For this reason, we recommend that all incoming students, especially those living in dormitory style facilities, to be vaccinated for Meningitis B. There are two different vaccine products by two different manufacturers – Bexsero, a two dose vaccine, and Trumenba, a three dose vaccine. They are not interchangeable – so be sure to indicate which vaccine you are receiving when you send in your immunization record.

COVID-19

The University recommends that all undergraduate and graduate students be [up-to-date](#) with their COVID vaccine(s), and update their vaccination information in their [MyUHS](#) portal.

Hepatitis A

Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for all travelers; individuals who have chronic liver disease, hepatitis B or C; illegal drug users; men who have sex with men; individuals with clotting-factor disorders; working with hepatitis A virus in experimental lab settings (not routine medical laboratories); food handlers and anyone wishing to obtain immunity to hepatitis A.

Influenza Vaccine (Flu shot)

The single best way to prevent the seasonal flu is to get an annual influenza vaccination. [Learn more about the flu vaccine.](#)

Pneumococcal (Pneumovax and Pneumococcal Polysaccharide)

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, smoking and asthma.

Poliomyelitis

The University recommends all student be up to date on their polio vaccines with at least 3 doses, usually given during childhood. In addition, it is recommended that adults 18 years or older planning to travel to countries with increased risk of exposure to poliovirus should receive a single lifetime booster dose of polio vaccine.

Varicella (Chicken Pox)

The varicella (chickenpox) vaccine is a two series immunization given 4 weeks apart. It is recommended for all students who do not have a documented history of disease or a positive titer verifying immunity.

Exemptions from requirements

Students may be exempted from the immunization requirements if there is a valid medical contraindication or due to their religious beliefs. Students seeking a medical exemption must submit a signed statement from a physician licensed to practice medicine or osteopathy, nurse practitioner, or clinical nurse specialist indicating that an immunization is medically contraindicated for a specific period of time, and explaining why based on a valid medical reason. Students seeking exemption based on their religious beliefs must submit a signed Application for Exemption from Immunization explaining how the administration of immunizing agents conflicts with their religious beliefs. Email MyUHS@princeton.edu to request the application. Students are still required to complete other matriculation requirements, including providing their health and immunization history. Additional immunization requirements/considerations may apply to students traveling internationally for a Princeton educational program.

UHS highly recommends that students with immunization exemptions submit results of titers (blood tests to determine immunity) for measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella. Students who do not do so, or whose results do not show that they have immunity, may be temporarily excluded from classes, residence halls, and any sponsored activities on campus in the event of a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak or threatened outbreak.