

Student Health Data Privacy & Compliance Scenarios

Situation 1: Parental Request for Vaccination Records

A parent requests their child's vaccination records from the university's student health center.

- Applicable Regulations:
 - FERPA (U.S.) – Protects student education records, including vaccination data.
 - GDPR (EU) – If the student is an EU citizen or resides in the EU, explicit consent is required.
 - CCPA (California, U.S.) – Grants data rights if the university is in California, though primarily for consumer data.
 - Response:
 - If the student is a minor, the record can be shared with the parent.
 - If the student is an adult, explicit consent is required before disclosing any records.
 - Inform the parent of legal restrictions and recommend they communicate directly with their child.
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Situation 2: International Student Request for Health Data

An international student requests access to their health records.

- Applicable Regulations:
 - FERPA (U.S.) – Covers student health records at university health centers.
 - GDPR (EU) – If the student is an EU citizen or located in the EU, the university must fulfill the request.
 - CCPA (California, U.S.) – Applies if the university is in California, granting data access rights.
 - Response:
 - Verify the student's residency or citizenship status to determine applicable laws.
 - Require the student to sign a consent form before releasing records.
 - Provide requested data promptly while maintaining documentation of the request.
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Best Practices for Handling Student Information

- Communication & Record-Keeping: Maintain logs of all data requests and require signed consent forms to reduce legal liability.
- Data Security & Storage: Ensure records are encrypted, regularly updated, and backed up for redundancy.
- Legal Compliance Checks: Analyze each request based on applicable laws (e.g., GDPR for EU students) before releasing records.
- Incident Response: In the event of a data breach:
 - Immediately notify authorities and relevant staff.
 - Inform affected individuals about the breach.
 - Seek legal counsel to manage potential liabilities.
- International Considerations: Consult foreign privacy laws for international student data requests.