

# CAMPUS IMMUNIZATION POLICY | 2014 – 15



All undergraduate and graduate students are covered under UC Merced's Campus Immunization Policy. The purpose of the policy is to reduce incidents and risk of vaccine-preventable disease in the university community. UC Merced has adopted the guidelines of the American College Health Association's Recommendations for Institutional Pre-Matriculation Immunizations and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO COMPLY WITH THESE REQUIREMENTS MAY HAVE THEIR REGISTRATION PLACED ON HOLD FOR SUBSEQUENT SEMESTERS.**

## › DOCUMENTATION

Students should enter their immunization history on the health center's secure website [myhealth.ucmerced.edu](http://myhealth.ucmerced.edu) using their UCMNetID and password, then provide a copy of their immunization card(s) to the health center for verification.

## › THE FOLLOWING VACCINATIONS ARE REQUIRED:

**HEPATITIS B:** California state law requires any student under the age of 19 on the first day of instruction to show proof of Hepatitis B immunity. This is given as a three-shot series.

**HEPATITIS A:** This is recommended for all adolescents and high-risk adults. Given as a series of two shots.

**MEASLES, MUMPS AND RUBELLA:** This is a two-shot series typically given at ages 1 and 4.

**MENINGOCOCCAL VACCINE (BACTERIAL MENINGITIS):** This shot is typically given at age 11 or 12. Persons who receive their first dose at age 13 to 15 should receive a booster dose at between age 16 and 18. Those who receive their first shot after age 15 do not need a booster shot.

**TETANUS:** This shot is given every 10 years after age 12.

**TDAP:** This new preparation of tetanus shot for adults protects against a disease called Pertussis or Whooping Cough. Last year in California, there was a large increase in cases of pertussis. While it will not kill a college student, it can cause a cough which lasts for months and months, disrupting sleep, appetite and energy levels.

All adults should receive one Tdap shot when they are due for a tetanus shot. For college students, we recommend Tdap even if you are not necessarily due for a tetanus booster.

**SEASONAL FLU SHOTS:** Typically, influenza causes three to seven days of fever over 102 degrees and up to three weeks of excessive fatigue. For a student this can be a serious issue. Cases of influenza are common in



crowded settings like college campuses. An annual flu shot can prevent a month of serious sickness. We encourage students to get a flu shot every year. The health center provides free flu shots to students each fall. Look for the posted schedule.

**VARICELLA:** This shot prevents chicken pox. New research suggests that two shots are necessary to provide protection. If you have had the disease chicken pox you do not need to be vaccinated.

**TUBERCULOSIS SCREENING:** Acceptable TB screening can be done through a PPD (Mantoux) intradermal skin test or IGRA (Quantiferon Gold) blood lab test. The testing must be done within six months of entering the university.

› All students will receive a separate secure message to complete an annual TB Risk Assessment Questionnaire through the health center's secure website at [myhealth.ucmerced.edu](http://myhealth.ucmerced.edu).

**HPV:** This vaccine helps prevent cervical cancers caused by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV). This is a three-shot series recommended to women, and to men now, ages 11 to 26.



**POLIO:** This vaccine offers protection against polio, which causes paralysis and death. The inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV) is usually given at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6-18 months, and 4 to 6 years.

Though the oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV) is still used in many parts of the world, it has not been used in the United States since 2000.

## EXEMPTIONS

Medical exemptions are vaccine-specific and require verification by a medical provider of the medical contraindication to a specific vaccine. This documentation must be provided to the health center on campus.

Religious exemptions require completion of a Request for Exemption on the basis of religious beliefs. This form can be obtained on the health center's website and must be notarized.

## IN THE EVENT OF AN OUTBREAK

Students exempted from immunization requirements may be requested by the university, at the discretion of public health authorities, to show titer proof of immunity, get immunized, or to remain off campus for the duration of an outbreak.