

Dickinson College Pre-Admission Immunization Policy

Policy/Procedure

All incoming students are required to submit immunization documentation that complies with the College's requirements. To promote the use of the Patient Portal, immunization information must be entered by the student. Additionally, immunization records from a healthcare provider or facility must be uploaded to the Wellness Center [Patient Portal](#), verify the information entered online **and will not be accepted in another format unless approved by the Wellness Center due to an extenuating reason**. Statements such as "received as a child", "records not available", or "up to date" are not acceptable. If serology is performed to demonstrate immunity, the Wellness Center must receive a copy of the official lab report. Students who have not completed the immunization requirements will not be able to directly move into their assigned housing upon arrival to campus.

Incoming students are required to provide the following documentation prior to arrival on campus:

COVID-19

Provider-verification documentation of two doses of Pfizer or Moderna or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson given at the appropriate intervals. WHO-approved COVID-19 vaccines given at the appropriate intervals by an international healthcare provider is also acceptable.

Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

Provider-verified documentation of the MMR immunization, with two live virus vaccines after 12 months of age, dated least 28 days apart. Alternatively, a positive serologic test demonstrating immunity may be provided.

Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)

Provider-verified documentation of one dose of Tdap within the past 10 years, regardless of the interval since the student's last Td booster, following the primary series. If never immunized, the student must receive the catch up series spaced at 0, 1 month, and 6 month intervals. The series must be started prior to entry, include Tdap vaccine and be completed during the first six months at Dickinson.

Varicella

Provider-verified documentation of dates of two doses of the varicella vaccine, administered at least 12 weeks apart if vaccinated between 1 and 12 years of age, and at least 4 weeks apart if vaccinated at age 13 years or older. The first vaccine cannot be given prior to 12 months of age. Alternatively, documentation of a history of the disease or a positive serologic test demonstrating immunity may be provided.

Hepatitis B

Provider-verified documentation of a series of three age appropriate doses of the hepatitis B vaccine given at any age. Minimum intervals between doses is 4 weeks between the first and second dose, 8 weeks between the second and third dose, and at least 16 weeks between the first and third dose and no earlier than 6 months of age. The series must be started prior to entering college, and must be completed within the student's first six months at Dickinson (administered either by the student's healthcare provider or at the Wellness Center).

Documentation of two adult doses may be provided if the student was vaccinated between 11-15 years of age, with the second dose given 4-6 months after the first. Alternatively, a positive serologic test demonstrating immunity may be provided.

Meningococcal Quadrivalent (A, C, Y, W-135)

Provider-verified documentation of the meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate vaccine given after 16 years of age. If the initial dose was given prior to age 16, a booster dose must be given.

Alternatively, the student may sign a waiver declining the meningitis vaccine (in accordance with Pennsylvania State law).

Pennsylvania State Law requires that all college students must provide documentation of a valid meningitis vaccine as above or sign a waiver declining the vaccine in order to be housed on campus.

Tuberculosis Risk Assessment

All students must complete the tuberculosis risk assessment form through the Wellness Center Patient Portal. If a student answers "yes" to any of the questions on the assessment, the Healthcare Provider TB Screening form must also be completed and signed by the student's healthcare provider. If the student meets the high-risk criteria for TB, the following testing is indicated:

- If a student has had previous negative TB testing, a tuberculin skin test (TST) or IGRA or T-spot blood test is required.
- If a student has had previous positive TB testing or BCG inoculation, an Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) or a T-spot blood test report is required (and a tuberculin skin test is not clinically appropriate).
 - o If results of one of these tests are positive, a chest x-ray report is also required.
 - o The student is also required to discuss positive results with their healthcare provider and forward documentation to our office, or schedule an appointment at the Wellness Center upon their arrival on campus to discuss voluntary prophylactic treatment through the State Health Center.

Online Medical History Form

All students are also required to complete the online medical history form located on the Wellness Center [Patient Portal](#).

Physical Exam (optional)

A [physical exam](#) or summary of care is optional. However, it is recommended that students with a chronic illness submit a [summary of care](#) from their specialist or primary care provider.

Exemption from Immunization Policy

The College will respect a student's request for a [religious exemption](#) from these immunization requirements. The student must sign and have notarized the Dickinson College Certificate of Exemption from Immunization form.

This does not exempt the student from the TB requirement. The TB Risk Assessment form is required of all students, and if a student is at high-risk for TB, the student must have their healthcare provider complete the Healthcare Provider TB Screening form to determine if TB testing is needed.

If a student has a [medical exemption](#), a healthcare provider must complete the Medical Exemption from Immunization Requirements form.

Related Information

Dickinson College's Pre-Admission Immunization Policy has been established to protect the health and well-being of the entire campus community.

All vaccines required by the College's Pre-Admission Immunization Policy are available at the Wellness Center (with the exception of the COVID vaccine or in a circumstance when there is a national shortage of a specific vaccine). If the student is unable to get the vaccine from their healthcare provider due to lack of availability, the student will be required to get the vaccine at the Wellness Center upon their arrival at their expense. An itemized receipt will be provided to the student to submit to their health insurance provider for reimbursement.

Compliance with the Pre-Admission Immunization Policy will be determined by the Wellness Center Administration. Any student who needs to complete an immunization series after starting at Dickinson and does not come to the Wellness Center to do so (or provide documentation from another provider who completed the series) will have a hold placed on their student record until they have completed their required immunizations.

History/Revision Information

Responsible Division/Office: Student Life/Wellness Center

Approval Date: 10/12/2011

Effective Date: 09/06/2013

Last Amended Date: 09/30/2022

Next Review Date: 09/30/2025

Also Found In: