



# Policy 6004: Immunization Policy Procedures

## I. Immunization Record Requirements

**A. All George Mason students born after December 31, 1956,** must provide proof of compliance with the following immunization requirements mandated by the Commonwealth of Virginia and George Mason University or have an approved exemption. (see Part F).

1. Two (2) doses of the MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) vaccine are required at least 28 days apart. First dose must be given on or after one year of age; and after 1971 (for combined MMR vaccine) or after 1967 (for individual doses) or a titer report (blood test) showing positive immunity to each component of the MMR vaccine.
2. Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td) vaccine within the last 10 years or Tetanus Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine within the last 10 years. Documentation of Tdap after age 11 years is recommended.
3. Documentation of completed Hepatitis B series or a titer report (blood test) showing positive immunity OR A signed waiver (waiver section of Certificate of Immunization)
4. Meningococcal (ACWY) - must receive vaccine between the ages of 16-21\* or a signed waiver (waiver section of Certificate of Immunization) \*Students 22 years of age or older are not required to have the meningococcal vaccine.
5. Polio - completed primary series required with the last dose at 4 years of age or older. This requirement will be met with documentation of at least one dose of IPV or OPV on or after the fourth birthday.
6. **Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Questionnaire** is required for **all students** as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). The Tuberculin Screening Questionnaire must be completed and submitted within the last 6 months (located within the Certificate of Immunization form). If a student answers 'yes' to any question in the TB Screening Questionnaire, a risk assessment must be performed by the healthcare provider certifying the Certificate of Immunization form. Students with a positive risk assessment and no known history of TB infection (previously known as latent TB/LTBI) or TB disease infection (previously known as active TB) will be required to submit results of a TB test, Tuberculosis skin test (TST) or Blood test (IGRA), performed within 3 months of class start date. Acceptable methods for TB blood tests include QuantiFERON-TB (QFT) or T-Spot. Students with a positive TB test or known history of TB infection or disease must submit documentation of a chest x-ray report done within 3 months of class start date. If a student received treatment for prior TB disease or TB infection, then the student must provide documentation of treatment completion from their health care provider. This documentation should include TB test results, chest x-ray results, names/dosages of treatment medication, and duration of treatment including date started and date completed. Contact information for the treatment healthcare provider should also be provided. Any future TB tests (TST or Blood test) will remain positive and are

not required for these students. A clinical team member will review all submitted TB documentation including treatment records, chest x-ray reports or lab tests. Students will be contacted to determine if they are symptomatic prior to clearance.

7. **Immunizations must be verified by documentation.** It is not acceptable for a student to simply tell their healthcare provider their immunization history. Proof of vaccination or immunity (through blood work) must be supported by documentation.

**B. To provide proof of immunization students must submit documentation in English. They may choose one of the following options:**

1. Have a healthcare provider complete and sign the George Mason Certificate of Immunization form based on historical documentation **OR**
2. Submit copies of documentation of previous vaccinations records with appropriate signatures or their immunization travel booklet. If opting for this method, students must also arrange for transcription service with Immunization Compliance staff at Student Health Services (SHS), as these documents do not use the George Mason Certificate of Immunization form.
3. Additionally, submit copies of any lab reports for titers, chest x-rays and/or medical treatment

**C. Certificate of Immunization Signature**

The George Mason Certificate of Immunization form must be signed by a healthcare provider if the immunization records have been transcribed onto the form by your healthcare provider. The Certificate of Immunization form does not need to be signed by a healthcare provider if the form is submitted to SHS with a copy of the original records attached for verification and transcription by SHS Immunization Compliance staff. Immunization record transcription by SHS staff requires a transcription fee.

**D. Students who do not have any immunization records or cannot find any records may:** check with their High School, parents, or previous university, state immunization information system, or military service branch for their records. The records which students locate may not be complete; they may still require additional immunizations. Additionally, acceptable documentation to meet immunization requirements will vary by disease.

**E. If students are lacking any required immunizations, or their dates are inconsistent with mandated requirements, they may receive immunizations or obtain titers:**

1. in their home country (should provide their healthcare provider with the George Mason Certificate of Immunization form),
2. at Mason's Student Health clinic, or
3. at another healthcare facility in the United States.

**F. Exemptions requests for medical or religious reasons may be submitted by students:**

- **Medical Exemptions:** Students must submit the Medical Exemption section of the Certificate of Immunization form if they are requesting a medical exemption. The Medical Exemption section must be completed and signed by a licensed physician stating that the student's physical condition is such that administration of one or more of the required immunizing agents would be detrimental to the

student's health.

- **Religious Exemptions:** Students must submit a Certificate of Religious Exemption [SHS Forms](#)
- Exemption requests are submitted through the patient portal as the preferred method
- A student may not obtain a religious exemption if the Board of Health has declared an emergency or epidemic of the disease

**Completion of the TB screening questionnaire is required regardless of approved medical or religious exemption from the vaccination requirements.**

#### **G. Completed Immunization Records:**

Submit online to Patient Portal (Preferred Method) or Mail To:  
George Mason University  
Student Health Services  
4400 University Drive, MS 2D3 Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

## **II. Immunization Requirements by Disease**

### **A. Hepatitis B vaccine requirement**

According to Virginia State Law, students must either be immunized or show proof of positive immunity through blood test or sign a waiver indicating that they do not wish to be vaccinated against the disease and understand the risks. Signing the waiver does not mean the student cannot be vaccinated in the future. Students must complete an approved Hepatitis B series before they are considered immune to Hepatitis B.

### **B. Measles, Mumps and Rubella Vaccinations/Disease as a child, validity**

The MMR is given during childhood and usually provides lifelong immunity, provided it was administered after 1967 and after a student's first birthday. Please note that students must show documentation that they have had two doses of the Measles, two doses of the Mumps and at least one dose of the Rubella vaccine. A history of disease is NOT accepted. Students can do a blood test to show evidence that they built up enough immunity to the diseases. If the blood test does not indicate a positive titer, then students will require MMR immunization. A negative titer or Measles or Mumps requires 2 doses of MMR be given at appropriate intervals. A negative titer for only Rubella requires 1 dose of MMR to be given.

### **C. Meningitis (Meningococcal ACWY) vaccine requirement**

Students under the age of 21, per Virginia State Law, must receive a dose of a meningococcal at or after 16th birthday or sign a waiver indicating that they do not wish to be vaccinated against the disease. Serogroup B Meningococcal Vaccine does NOT meet this requirement.

### **D. Polio (Poliomyelitis) Vaccinations**

Documentation of primary polio vaccine series with IPV (Inactivated Polio vaccine) or OPV (Oral Polio vaccine) is required for all students. The fourth dose of the polio vaccine must be given on or after the fourth birthday. If a student does not have documentation of a complete primary series or only partial series, then they will be required to have at least one dose of Polio vaccine (IPV or OPV) documented on or after their fourth birthday. CDC, American College Health

Association (ACHA) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend unvaccinated students should be given up to three doses of IPV based on their current vaccination status.

#### **E. Tetanus and Diphtheria vaccinations**

Tetanus and diphtheria booster must be administered every 10 years. Students receiving their decennial booster may receive either Td or Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis). CDC, American College Health Association (ACHA) and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommend at least one booster with Tdap after age 11 years.

#### **F. Tuberculosis (TB) screening**

Tuberculosis screening is conducted through a questionnaire that the student identifies any risk factors, for tuberculosis infection and disease.

#### **G. Tuberculosis (TB) testing:**

TB testing is a procedure for diagnosis of TBI (previously known as LTBI (Latent TB Infection)). This test is performed by either a tuberculin skin test (TST) or a blood test (IGRA).

##### **1. IGRA and TST testing:**

An IGRA (QFT or T-spot) blood test is preferred over the skin test, especially for students with a history of Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination. Unlike the skin test, the QFT test is not affected by prior TB vaccination with BCG. If a student chooses the QFT test, they must submit a copy of the lab report along with the immunization records. If a student submits a TST skin test, results must be submitted as a numerical value in millimeter units of induration.

##### **2. How old can the TB test be?**

If a tuberculin test is required, the test must be less than 3 months old from the first day of classes. A TST, QFT or T-Spot will be accepted to meet the requirement. If a student has documentation of a positive TB test, then the student must provide history and chest x-ray report (and medication if taken). For students who provide TBI/TB disease treatment documentation, their records will be reviewed by a clinical team member to determine if a chest x-ray is required within 3 months of the start of classes.

## **Due Dates and Fees**

The due dates for the completed certificate of immunization form for the spring and summer/fall semesters are available on the SHS website and the official George Mason calendar.

Those students who have not completed their records by the due date will incur a late fee and a hold will be placed on their student account. The fee must be paid online using a credit card or Mason Money.