

Frequently asked questions about immunization requirements

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General immunization questions

Where do I send my immunization forms from my primary care provider?

Do not mail your forms. You must upload your immunization forms on your Rutgers Student Immunization Portal.

Do I have to get all the vaccines on the second page of the immunization packet (additional vaccinations)?

No, these vaccinations are optional. If you have received any of these vaccines, please include them in your upload so that your records are complete. This will allow us to better care for you during your time at Rutgers.

I am mostly a distance learning student. Do I still need to submit immunization records?

If you are attending any classes on any campus or if your program has a clinical component, you are required to submit immunization records.

Do I need to have the immunization packet completed again if I am a former Rutgers student or a student on another campus?

Yes. Please complete the Mandatory Health Form on the portal and submit an updated immunization form. We recently transitioned to a new immunization system and not all past documentation is available. You can log into the immunization portal and view your past immunizations (under the immunizations tab). If your record is incomplete, please follow the instructions on the main page to submit your missing immunization records for review.

I uploaded my documents on the portal. How long will it take to verify, and will you notify me after my record has been reviewed?

The University receives a very large number of immunizations input into the Rutgers Student Immunization Portal prior to the start of each semester. **Please be patient. You will be emailed once your record has been reviewed. You can also review your status by logging into the portal and selecting Immunizations. Click on the PRINT icon to view your immunization record. Any missing requirements will be listed at the end of the printout.**

I have immunization documentation from another University. Can I use it as supporting documentation for my record?

Yes, as long as it is official and the supporting documentation is included.

How do I get a copy of my immunization record?

Contact your former school or medical provider.

What happens if I have not had all of my immunizations?

Rutgers University requires that you have your Pre-Entrance immunizations completed by your school's deadline. Non-compliance may result in a hold placed on your student account, you may be asked to leave University housing, and/or you may not be permitted to complete a clinical rotation.

Where can I get the immunizations that I am missing?

Immunizations can be obtained from your primary care provider, local pharmacies, or if on campus, any of the five Rutgers Student Health organization found on Rutgers campuses throughout the state of New Jersey.

Which browser can I use?

Recommended browsers are Internet Explorer, Edge, or Firefox. Chrome is supported, but has been known to have issues, depending upon the version.

I am in my Immunization portal and I am receiving an error message, what should I do?

Please email us at vaccine@echo.rutgers.edu. You must include your full name, Rutgers 9 digit ID number, which school you are enrolled in and the error number. These will be sent to tech support and you will be advised by email.

Hepatitis B

My Hepatitis B antibody titer came back negative (not immune). What should I do now? Will this hold up my enrollment, registration, or clinical rotation?

If you completed the Hepatitis B series in the past, you have two options:

1. Receive a booster shot and check the titer again in 4 weeks

2. Repeat the complete vaccine series and check the titer again in 4 weeks

If you are not immune, you must submit a Hepatitis B Surface Antigen in addition to completing the above steps.

Make sure to submit documentation of all vaccines and titers throughout the process through the portal.

As long as you keep to the vaccine and titer schedules and submit documentation, you will remain compliant throughout the process and your enrollment, registration, or rotations will not be held up.

I have completed 2 Hepatitis B vaccine series and I am still not immune. What do I do?

You do not need to receive any additional vaccinations. Call us to discuss next steps.

Do I need a quantitative or a qualitative Hepatitis B titer?

If you are in a program that requires a Hepatitis B titer, a quantitative titer is required per CDC guidelines.

Flu

When do I need to have the flu vaccine?

Clinical students must be vaccinated each year. The flu season in our area begins in September and lasts through May. Each program has specific requirements.

Meningitis

Do I need the meningitis vaccine?

It depends on your risk factors.

Meningitis ACYW is required for ALL students under 19, first year college students in housing, those with risk factors ^{1,2}, and specific travelers³) with at least 1 dose since age 16

Meningitis B is required for students with risk factors¹

¹asplenia, sickle cell, N meningitidis lab work, complement deficiency or complement inhibitor use ²HIV ³travelers to/residents of areas with endemic meningitis

PPDs and tuberculosis screening

I am an incoming clinical student and had one PPD placed last year. Do I still need a two-step PPD?

Clinical students must have a 2-step PPD at matriculation. Students with a history of serial annual PPDs (3 or more) may submit that documentation for review. These will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

I had the BCG vaccine, do I still need a PPD?

Yes, you will still need a PPD or blood test since you still need to be screened for tuberculosis. A blood test such as Quantiferon Gold or T-spot is preferred.

I had a positive PPD. What should I do?

Specific situations may vary. In general, you will need to submit documentation of the positive PPD, a normal chest x-ray or a negative tuberculosis blood test. If the chest x-ray is abnormal or the blood test shows possible infection, you will need to be evaluated by your physician for tuberculosis. Submit all documentation (e.g. PPD reading, chest x-ray report, blood tests, treatment dates) on the portal.

I had a positive PPD in the past but have no documentation, what should I do?

We need documentation from your healthcare provider that you had a positive PPD, along with a chest x-ray report. Alternatively, you may submit a tuberculosis blood test. If that test is positive, you will need a chest x-ray. If that test is negative, you may be asked to have annual tuberculosis blood tests (depending on your program).

Chickenpox

I had chickenpox in childhood. Do I still need to get the vaccine?

If varicella (chickenpox) is a requirement for your program, you will need to submit varicella titers to show that you are immune.