

Immunization Information

Welcome to Winthrop University! We are glad you have chosen us to meet your higher education goals.

Proof of immunization or immunity is REQUIRED OF ALL STUDENTS in order to register for classes. Please complete the following Immunization Requirement steps in the **Patient Portal** <https://patient-winthrop.medicatconnect.com/>

Under Forms Tab, Complete Student Information Form. If you are under the age of 16, you will need a signature from a parent or legal guardian authorizing any medical treatment sought at the university.

Under Forms Tab, Tuberculosis Screening Questionnaire. Complete and sign the screening questionnaire. Follow instructions, complete TB skin test or Interferon Gamma Release Assay (IGRA) blood test if indicated. If you answer Yes to any of the questions, call Health Services at 803/323-2206 to speak with a nurse. The nurse will determine if you will be required to have a TB Skin Test placed for compliance.

Under Immunizations Tab, Required Immunizations. Enter the vaccine dates from your Acceptable Immunization Record* for MMR1, MMR2, Tdap (within the last 10 years), Meningitis Booster (after the age of 16 years old) or you will need to sign a Meningitis Waiver located under Forms. All other vaccine dates are recommended not required for compliance.

*Acceptable Records of Your Immunizations

Documentation of immunization means a healthcare provider or Health Department must sign your Immunization Form OR you must attach an official certificate, such as from the military or Health Department. Each page must include your full name and date of birth and all records should be mailed together. The records must be in black ink and the dates of vaccine administration must include the month, day and year. All records must be in English.

You can use the following resources to obtain your records:

- ✓ **Healthcare provider's office:** These records must be verified by a healthcare provider's stamp and/or signature.
- ✓ **Personal shot records:** These records must be verified by a healthcare provider's stamp and/or signature or by a Health Department stamp.
- ✓ **Local Health Department:** These records must be verified by a healthcare provider's stamp and/or signature or by a Health Department stamp.
- ✓ **High school records:** These may contain some, but not all of your immunization information. Your immunization records do not transfer automatically. You must request a copy from your high school.
- ✓ **Previous college or university:** Your immunization records do not transfer automatically. You must request a copy from your school.
- ✓ **Military records or World Health Organization (WHO) documents.**

Recommended Immunizations.

See information below.

Health and Counseling Services recommends additional vaccinations. You may elect to receive these immunizations from your private healthcare provider or Health Department prior to arriving at the university.

South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 59-101-290

Section 59-101-290. Notification of risk of contracting certain diseases if living on campus.

- (A) A public institution of higher learning shall notify incoming students, or the parent or guardian of an incoming student under the age of eighteen, of the risk of contracting meningococcal disease and Hepatitis B if living in on-campus student housing.
- (B) A public institution of higher learning shall include vaccination against meningococcal disease and Hepatitis B as recommended immunization in health and medical information provided to students or prospective students and parents or guardians.



IMMUNIZATIONS FOR THE COLLEGE POPULATION

Meningitis - More information is available at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/mening/who-vaccinate.htm

Meningococcal disease is a potentially life threatening bacterial infection that strikes 1,400 - 2,800 Americans each year. The disease causes inflammation of the membranes surrounding the brain, spinal cord and infection in the blood and other tissues. ACHA estimated that 100-125 cases of meningococcal disease occur annually on college campuses, and 5 to 15 students die as a result. The disease is transmitted through the air via droplets of respiratory secretions and by direct contact with persons infected with the disease. Oral contact with shared items such as cigarettes or drinking glasses or through intimate contact such as kissing could put a person at risk for acquiring the infection.

The CDC, ACHA and ACIP recommend Meningitis MCV4 vaccine for all persons 11-18 years old, others at risk and all freshman college students living in residence halls. If vaccine was received prior to age 16, a booster is highly recommended. The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education recommends all freshman and other entering college students under the age of 25 years living in on-campus student housing provide proof of immunization with a conjugate meningococcal vaccine or provide a Meningitis Waiver Form declining the vaccination after reading the risks and hazards of bacterial meningitis.

Meningococcal MCV4 vaccine will protect against four common forms of Nisseria Meningitis (A, C, Y and W-135); **however, no vaccine is guaranteed to protect 100% of individuals.** The fastest rising form of the disease among college students is group C. Side effects of the vaccine may include mild pain and redness at the injection site. Some individuals may have other reactions like headache, fever and chills.

Winthrop University has added meningococcal vaccine to its required immunizations. You may comply with the requirement by showing documentation of the meningitis vaccine and booster, if needed, or completing the signed waiver on the Immunization Form.

Hepatitis B - More information is available at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hepb/default.htm

Hepatitis B is a serious disease of the liver caused by the Hepatitis B virus (HBV). Symptoms of the acute illness caused by HBV may include loss of appetite, diarrhea and vomiting, fatigue, jaundice (yellow skin and/or eyes), pain in joints, muscles and stomach. HBV can also cause a long-term or chronic illness in which the inflammation of the liver leads to liver damage, liver cancer, and death.

HBV is spread through contact with infected blood or body fluids of a person with HBV. It can be acquired through open cuts, wounds, or mucus membranes, by having unprotected sex, by sharing needles, and passed on to a baby during the birth process. Probably one-third of people who are infected with HBV in this country do not know how they got it. **Hepatitis B vaccine can prevent Hepatitis B infection.** It is considered the first anti-cancer vaccine because it can prevent a form of liver cancer.

Since 1991, Hepatitis B vaccine has been included in the schedule of childhood immunizations recommended by the CDC and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practice (ACIP). Infants receive the vaccine and many children and adolescents have already received it. It is now required in South Carolina schools and some healthcare settings.

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) – More information is available at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hpv/default.htm

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a common virus that is spread through sexual contact. Most of the time HPV has no symptoms, so people do not know they have it. There are approximately 40 types of genital HPV. Some types can cause cervical cancer in women and can also cause other kinds of cancer in both men and women. Other types can cause genital warts in both males and females. The HPV vaccine works by preventing the most common types of HPV that cause cervical cancer and genital warts. It is given as a 3-dose vaccine.

Varicella - More information is available at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/varicella/default.htm

Varicella (chickenpox) is a highly contagious disease that is very uncomfortable and sometimes serious, especially in young infants and adults. It causes a rash, itching, fever and tiredness. It can lead to severe skin infection, scars, pneumonia, brain damage or death. The chickenpox virus can be spread from person-to-person through the air or by contact with the fluid from the chickenpox blisters. A person who has had chickenpox can get a painful rash called shingles years later.

The chickenpox vaccine is the best protection against chickenpox. The vaccine is made from weakened varicella virus that produces an immune response in your body that protects you against chickenpox. The chickenpox vaccine was licensed for use in the United States in 1995. Since then, the vaccine has become widely used. Thanks to the chickenpox vaccine, the numbers of people who get chickenpox each year, as well as hospitalizations and deaths from chickenpox, have gone down dramatically in the United States.

Hepatitis A – More information is available at: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd-vac/hepa/default.htm

Hepatitis A is an acute liver disease caused by the Hepatitis A virus (HAV), lasting from a few weeks to several months. It does not lead to chronic infection. Hepatitis A can affect anyone. Vaccines are available for long-term prevention of HAV infection in persons 1 year of age and older, travelers to certain countries, and others at risk. Transmission is through ingestion of fecal matter, (even microscopic amounts), from close person-to-person contact, or ingestion of contaminated food or drinks. Good personal hygiene and proper sanitation can help prevent the spread of Hepatitis A.

Although Hepatitis B, HPV, Varicella, Hepatitis A and annual Influenza vaccinations are not mandatory for entrance at Winthrop University, we follow the advice of the CDC and the American College Health Association (ACHA). That is, we recommend that our students receive these vaccinations.

